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WASTE WATER



EPA report faults response to Flint water crisis

In this March 21, 2016, file photo, the Flint Water Plant water tower is seen in Flint, Mich.

Associated Press
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Round 2 for Trump-Putin: A fall invite amid summit mop-up

By ZEKE MILLER, KEN THOMAS and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Unbowed by swirling criticism of his summit encounter with Vladimir Putin, President Donald Trump swiftly invited the Russian leader to the White House this fall for a second get-together. Cleanup from the first continued with no letup Thursday, as Trump belatedly decided Putin's "incredible offer" of shared U.S.-Russia investigations was no good after all.

A White House meeting would be a dramatic extension of legitimacy to the Russian leader, who has long been isolated by the West for activities in Ukraine, Syria and beyond and is believed to have interfered in the 2016 presidential election that sent Trump to the presidency. No Russian leader has visited the White House in nearly a decade. Trump asked National Security Adviser John Bolton to invite Putin, and "those discussions are already underway," Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Thursday. Trump earlier had tweeted that he looked forward to "our second meeting" as he defended his performance at Monday's summit, in which the two leaders conferred on a range of issues including terrorism, Israeli security, nuclear proliferation and North Korea.

"There are many answers, some easy and some hard, to these problems ... but they can ALL be solved!" Trump tweeted.

There was no immediate reaction from the Kremlin to the invitation.

News of the invite appeared to catch even the president's top intelligence official by surprise.



In this July 16, 2018, photo, U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and Russian President Vladimir Putin arrive for a news conference at the Presidential Palace in Helsinki, Finland.

Associated Press

"Say that again," National Intelligence Director Dan Coats responded, when informed of the invitation during an appearance at the Aspen Security Forum in Colorado.

"OK," he continued, pausing for a deep breath. "That's going to be special."

Then on Thursday, the White House said Trump "disagrees" with Putin's offer to allow U.S. questioning of 12 Russians who have been indicted for election interference in exchange for Russian interviews with the former U.S. ambassador to Russia and other Americans the Kremlin accuses of unspecified crimes. Trump initially had described the idea as an "incredible offer."

The White House backtrack came just before the Senate voted overwhelmingly against the proposal. It was Congress' first formal rebuke of Trump's actions

from the summit and its aftermath.

Asked about the Putin invitation, Alaska Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan said "I wouldn't do it, that's for damn sure."

"If the Russians want a better relationship, trips to the White House aren't going to help," he added. "They should stop invading their neighbors. They should stop meddling in our elections." Mixed messages from Trump have increased worries in Congress that the White House is not taking seriously the threat that senior officials say Russia now poses to the upcoming 2018 midterm elections.

Democrats in the House sought Thursday to extend a state grant program for election security but were blocked by Republicans. There is \$380 million approved in the current budget for the program, which is intended to help states strengthen election systems

from hacking and other cyberattacks.

Democratic lawmakers erupted into chants of "USA! USA!" during the debate,

As for Putin's offer on investigations, Sanders it was "made in sincerity" and the U.S. hopes he will have the indicted Russians "come to the United States to prove their innocence or guilt."

Just a day earlier, the White House had said the offer was under consideration, even though the State Department called Russia's allegations against the Americans, including former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul, "absurd." Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Thursday of the proposed Russian questioning, "That's not going to happen."

"The administration is not going to send force Americans to travel to Russia to be interrogated by Vladimir Putin and his team," Pom-

peo said in an interview with The Christian Broadcasting Network.

Senate Republicans joined Democrats in swiftly passing a resolution, 98-0, that put the Senate on record against the questioning of American officials by a foreign government.

Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell hastily arranged the vote as lawmakers unleashed an avalanche of resolutions and other proposed actions expressing alarm over Trump's meeting with Putin and the White House's shifting response.

Coats said Thursday he wished the president hadn't undermined the conclusions of American intelligence agencies while standing next to Putin and felt it was his duty to correct the record. He restated the

U.S. intelligence assessment about Russian meddling and Moscow's "ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy."

While they had met privately on three occasions in 2017, Trump opened the door to a potential White House meeting with Putin earlier this year. The Kremlin had said in April that the president had invited the Russian leader to the White House when they spoke by telephone in March. At the time, White House officials worked to convince a skeptical president that the Nordic capital would serve as a more effective backdrop — and warned of a firestorm should a West Wing meeting go through. Still, Trump has expressed a preference for the White House setting for major meetings, including floating an invitation to Washington for North Korea's Kim Jong Un after their meeting in Singapore last month. □



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Flint water crisis prompts call for more federal oversight

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER and JOHN FLESHER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal watchdog is calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to strengthen its oversight of state drinking water systems nationally and respond more quickly to public health emergencies such as the lead-in-the water crisis in Flint, Michigan.

In a 74-page report released Thursday, the EPA's inspector general report pointed to "oversight lapses" at the federal, state and local levels in the response to Flint's contaminated drinking water.

"While oversight authority is vital, its absence can contribute to a catastrophic situation," the inspector general, Arthur A. Elkins, said in a statement. His office has concluded the EPA was too slow and passive in responding to the Flint crisis. The finding comes as the Trump administration seeks to cut the EPA's budget, including some drinking-water programs. The administration also has called for reining back federal environmental regulation overall and transferring more oversight authority of some programs to the states.

The EPA said in a statement it agrees with the inspector general's recommendations and is adopting them "expeditiously."

"The agency is actively engaging with states to improve communications and compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to safeguard human health," the statement said. But the internal watchdog said the agency's proposal for stepping up oversight falls short.

Flint's tap water became contaminated in 2014 after officials switched from the Detroit system to the Flint River to save money, exposing many residents to lead, a potent neurotoxin. Children are particularly vulnerable, and the EPA says there is no safe level of lead.

EPA officials had stressed they had wanted to foster a collaborative partnership with Michigan, the report said. In Flint, the quest for "partnership limited effective EPA oversight."

Rep. Dan Kildee, who was traveling to Flint on Thursday to inspect work done on the city's water system, said the state bore most of the blame for the slow response to the health crisis, but also said "the EPA should have been more aggressive."

"EPA should not have taken the state of Michigan at its word" that everything was fine with Flint's water, said Kildee, D-Mich. "Water quality is too serious a question ... without doing more to assure the rule is being properly enforced."

The switch to the Flint River was to be temporary, until the city could connect to a planned regional pipeline from Lake Huron. At that time, the impoverished majority-black city of nearly 100,000 residents was under control of an emergency financial manager appointed by Republican Gov. Rick Snyder.

Residents complained the river water smelled and tasted bad and was causing skin rashes and other health problems. Local officials insisted it was safe. After tests showed high levels of lead in a home in April 2015, Miguel Del Toral,



In this Tuesday, July 10, 2018, photo, flames fly from the lit torch, signifying the start of the 62nd annual Flint Olympian Games opening ceremonies at Southwestern Classical Academy in Flint, Mich.

a water regulations official in EPA's Chicago office, contacted officials with Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality. Del Toral also alerted superiors at EPA who decided not to make the information public, instead prodding the state agency to act behind the scenes. After a draft of Del Toral's report was leaked, EPA's regional administrator apologized to the city.

In emails later released through public-records requests, Del Toral voiced frustration over EPA's slow pace and described the agency as a "cesspool."

State officials finally acknowledged the lead contamination in September 2015 after doctors reported high levels of lead in Flint children's blood and Virginia Tech University researchers said their testing of Flint water samples found some with lead levels meeting

EPA's definition of "toxic waste."

Snyder ordered the National Guard to distribute bottled water and filters, requested federal aid and eventually accepted the resignation of his top environmental official. Flint returned to the Detroit water system.

In January 2016, the EPA notified Michigan that its actions were inadequate and ordered stronger intervention. The agency's regional administrator in Chicago, Susan Hedman, resigned the next month. The preliminary inspector general's review later that year found that the regional EPA office should have had "a greater sense of urgency" and was too deferential to the state.

Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy acknowledged during congressional hearings that her agency should have been

more aggressive in testing the water and requiring changes but said the federal agency "couldn't get a straight answer" from Michigan officials about what was being done in Flint.

Republican lawmakers accused McCarthy and the Obama EPA of incompetence and neglect.

Snyder ended water distribution in Flint last April, saying water quality had improved significantly. The state environmental agency this week said tests during the latest six-month monitoring showed lead levels were beneath the action threshold and better than those of some other Michigan cities.

The Michigan attorney general's office has filed criminal charges against 15 state and local officials in the Flint matter, which also has spawned numerous lawsuits. □

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McConnell withdraws Trump judicial pick minutes before vote

By KEVIN FREKING and MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Thursday abruptly withdrew one of President Donald Trump's appellate court nominees when it became apparent he did not have enough support to pass.

The decision came just minutes before the confirmation vote and after senators voiced concerns about his college writings.

McConnell indicated that the administration would be withdrawing the nomination of Ryan Bounds, an assistant U.S. attorney in Oregon, to serve on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Republicans have been able to use their thin majority to push several of Trump's nominees through despite overwhelming Democratic opposition. Arizona Sen. John McCain's absence has given the GOP even less cushion, with Republicans holding a 50-49 voting edge.

"After talking with the nominee last night and meeting with him today, I had unanswered questions that led to me being unable to support him," Scott said.

A person familiar with Scott's thinking said he had concerns about some of Bounds' writings. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Scott was not detailing his concerns publicly.

Scott said he felt like he needed "more information," and other Republicans joined him in asking for that. He said Florida Sen. Marco Rubio was one of



In this May 15, 2018, file photo, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., pauses as he speaks to reporters at the Capitol in Washington.

those senators.

The two senators from Bounds' home state, Democrats Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden, had objected to the nomination, saying the Trump administration hadn't consulted them about it. They highlighted writings from Bounds' years at Stanford University that they said revealed alarming views on race, workers' rights and the gay community. They also complained that Bounds did not provide his Stanford Review opinion columns to a judicial selection committee in Oregon that makes recommendations for federal judges.

Bounds, 45, was asked about the writings during the confirmation hearing and in questionnaires submitted by senators, and he apologized. In one column titled "Lo! A Pestilence Stalks Us," he appeared to mock LGBT students as be-

ing too sensitive when a group of intoxicated athletes vandalized a statue celebrating gay pride. In the same column, he seemed to mock Latino students for being too sensitive when they complained about the termination of a Latino administrator.

Bounds said the article didn't show sufficient respect for the concerns of the students involved. "I apologize for that; it is not in keeping with how I have lived my life," Bounds said. Bounds also told senators that he did not believe he needed to submit pre-law school writings to the judicial selection committee.

"Senator Wyden's office explicitly told me the committee sought to review materials going back only 'as far as law school,' and so I identified and (to the extent practicable) produced all such materials

without regard to whether they were potentially controversial," Bounds said. While Democrats objected to Bounds' writings and the process used to advance him, Republican senators focused on his work as a lawyer.

"Fairness, impartiality, intellectual rigor. To sum it up, in the words of one legal peer, quote, 'Ryan has all of this, and more,'" McConnell said Thursday morning, hours before pulling the nomination. "So, I look forward to voting to confirm this excellent nominee, and I urge all my colleagues to join me."

Democrats were incensed that Republicans were moving ahead despite the objections of both home-state senators, saying the GOP was discarding Senate courtesy and tradition. The Senate gives lawmakers a chance to weigh

Associated Press

in on a judicial nominee from their home state by submitting a blue-colored form called the "blue slip." A positive blue slip signals the Senate can move forward with the nomination process. The blue slip is designed to generate consultation between the executive branch and Congress. The two Oregon senators signaled their objections by not returning blue slips, which would generally stall a nomination.

This time, Republicans opted to move forward anyway, which meant that if Bounds had been confirmed, it would have been the first time since at least 1956 and possibly much longer that a nominee had been confirmed without positive blue slips from both home-state senators.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, called Bounds "a deeply flawed nominee who concealed his views during the nominations process, which is why I strongly opposed him in committee."

Merkley and Wyden said they had spoken in detail with colleagues in recent days about Bounds but were afraid the issue was getting lost.

"I'm still somewhat surprised that we had a successful outcome," Merkley said. "I do not feel this individual was the right person to serve on the bench, but I'm very pleased my colleagues had a long discussion about it over lunch and decided to take the course you saw them take by asking the president to withdraw the nomination." □

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Florida soldier says agency is blocking path to citizenship

By MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Haeder Al Anbki was all set to become a U.S. citizen last year.

The former interpreter for U.S. forces in Iraq, who had been shot and stabbed during his service, was at a June 2017 naturalization ceremony in Fort Benning, Georgia, for 20 immigrant recruits when he was stopped and told he wouldn't be participating. No explanation was given other than "there was a problem in the system," according to a lawsuit he filed last month in the District of Columbia.

The 36-year-old Al Anbki says in the lawsuit that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services was obligated to complete his citizenship application but instead was applying a different set of rules under a program known as the Controlled Application Review and Resolution Program, which opponents say targets applicants from majority-Muslim countries.

"Everybody was looking at me and they were like, 'What's going on?'" Al Anbki said Wednesday in a telephone interview from Camp Blanding in Jacksonville, where he was training with his Florida National Guard unit.

"It was frustrating for me. Like, why? Of the 20 soldiers there, I'm the only one who got held."

Al Anbki, who lives in Orlando, Florida, came to the United States in 2011 after working with U.S. troops in Iraq for nine years as an interpreter, a job that allowed him to get a special immigration visa. During his

service with the troops, he was stabbed by an insurgent and shot in the leg. He lost a toe on his left foot from shrapnel. His brother, also a translator for U.S. troops, was killed.

CARRP, as the program is known, started in the final year of President George W. Bush's administration. It's "an internal policy that has neither been approved by Congress nor subjected to public notice and comment," according to Al Anbki's lawsuit.

The once-secret program is also being challenged in federal court in Seattle by the American Civil Liberties Union and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project. Their class-action lawsuit claims the government since 2008 has blacklisted thousands of applications for asylum, legal permanent residency or citizenship as national security concerns. The case goes to trial next year.

An agency spokeswoman said in a statement that privacy restrictions prevent her from talking about specific cases.

"USCIS adjudicates all naturalization applications fairly, efficiently, and effectively on a case-by-case basis to determine if they meet all standards required under the law," the statement said.

The statement said "some applications take longer than others to process," and that applicants are notified of a final decision. However, opponents say what really happens is the applications often are delayed indefinitely.

Other lawsuits around the country have challenged the program, but they were

dismissed because immigration authorities quickly ruled on the plaintiffs' applications once the complaints were filed, erasing the legal grounds on which they sued.

Besides his National Guard work, Al Anbki is employed as a security guard at Orlando International Airport while raising two grade-school-aged boys as a single dad. He has passed multiple background checks from the visa, Guard participation and job, he said.

"This is no way to treat somebody who bled for his country," Al Anbki said. □



This July 12, 2018 photo provided by Jaime Lugo shows Haeder Al Anbki at Camp Blanding in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

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Report: Lake oil spill in Michigan would cost nearly \$2B

By ED WHITE
Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Hundreds of miles of Great Lakes shoreline would be spoiled under a worst-case scenario oil spill in Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, scientists reported Thursday.

The cost of a doomsday spill could be as high as \$1.8 billion, including \$500 million in cleanup and \$678 million in lost tourism revenue in Wisconsin and Michigan, experts said.

A team of scientists from Michigan universities wrote a 400-page draft report on the risks of an extraordinary spill from Enbridge Line 5, a 20-inch twin oil pipeline that runs beneath the Straits of Mackinac, which connects lakes Michigan and Huron at the peak of the Lower Peninsula. A public hearing will be held on Aug. 13 in Harbor Springs.

The impact of a spill would be significant, but the scientists cautioned that their analysis "extends to risks with low probabilities" of occurrence.

Enbridge, a Canadian company, has been under scrutiny since 2010, when one of its pipelines ruptured in southern Michigan, releasing 800,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River system. Critics say Line 5, which has been transporting oil between Wisconsin and Ontario, Canada, for decades, should be shut down, saying it's old and could be vulnerable to leaks.

No large oil spill has ever occurred in the Great



FILE - In this July 19, 2002 file photo, the Mackinac Bridge that spans the Straits of Mackinac is shown from Mackinaw City, Mich.

Associated Press

Lakes. Gov. Rick Snyder's administration is expected to determine the pipeline's long-term future by fall, just a few months before he leaves office. One option would be putting the pipeline in a tunnel under the lakebed.

Enbridge insists that Line 5 is safe. The company said a 24-hour control center monitors the pipeline and can shut it down in minutes. "The scenarios presented in this report are purely hypothetical and the probability of the events actually occurring is extraordinarily unlikely because Enbridge operates our pipelines with

multiple layers of safety in mind," spokesman Ryan Duffy said.

The report says a Line 5 rupture could release as much as 58,000 barrels — 2.4 million gallons — of oil and affect hundreds of miles of shoreline in Michigan, Wisconsin and Canada. Cleanup efforts could be affected by the wind, weather and season.

It is "possible that shoreline cleanup operations for a potential spill in the Straits of Mackinac could continue for months to up to two years following the spill," the report states.

A 1953 easement makes

Enbridge liable for damage or loss to public or private property, the scientists said. Line 5 carries light crude oil and natural gas liquids used to make propane. In 2016, more than half of Michigan's propane needs were supplied by the pipeline.

"Line 5 cannot remain in the Straits in its current form," said Keith Creagh, director of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "This report highlights the need to continue developing a decommissioning strategy that protects the Great Lakes while at the same time maintain-

ing the critical infrastructure between Michigan's peninsulas that makes us one state." □

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NY officials: No major public health threat from steam blast

By KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An aging steam pipe containing cancer-causing asbestos exploded beneath Fifth Avenue in Manhattan early Thursday, spewing a geyser of white vapor 10 stories high and forcing an evacuation of 49 buildings, but city officials said there was no major public health threat.

Five people, including three civilians, suffered minor injuries from the 6:40 a.m. blast on 21st Street, and officials warned people who may have gotten material on them to bag their clothes and shower immediately as a precaution.

On a street near the blast site, firefighters stripped off their heavy outerwear, bagged it and entered a red decontamination tent in their gym shorts and T-shirts to take showers.

"There was asbestos in the steam line casing," Mayor Bill de Blasio said about eight hours after the explosion, but "the air cleared fairly quickly after the incident. ... There is no meaningful presence of asbestos in the air at this point."

Nevertheless, responders continued to wear masks and their vehicles were hosed off.

De Blasio said it could take days to check and clean the buildings, which include 28 in a "hot zone" closest to the site where the blast left a crater roughly 20 feet by 15 feet (6 meters by 4.5 meters) in the street.

It was not immediately determined what caused the blast in the 20-inch (50-cm) pipe.

The mayor said no work was being done on the pipe at

the time.

Daniel Lizio-Katzen, 42, was riding his bike home to the West Village when he saw the plume from the high-pressure steam explosion. "It was a pretty violent explosion," Lizio-Katzen told the Daily News. "The steam was shooting up into the air about 70 feet. It was pushing up at such a high pressure that it was spewing all of this dirt and debris. The cars around were coated in mud. ... It left a huge crater in the middle of the street."

Brendan Walsh, 22, a senior at New York University, had just gotten off a train and was headed to class when he saw the plume and "a large scatter of debris. ... I was standing behind the police line when a Con Ed worker came rushing over and screaming at police and firefighters to push everyone north because he was worried that there could be secondary man-hole explosions."

"Everyone — including the police and firefighters who were standing by — started moving back," he said.

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo directed the state Department of Public Service to conduct a full investigation into the cause of the explosion and whether any "utility activities contributed to it."

"In conjunction with that investigation, the Departments of Environmental Conservation and Labor are standing by to assist in asbestos testing, assessment and with the disposal of contaminated material," Cuomo said in a statement. Businesses were braced for the worst as the response dragged on and police

and firefighters blocked access to buildings close to the explosion, crippling their neighborhood and their workday. Subway trains were diverted around the blast area.

Similar explosions over the year have drawn attention to the aging infrastructure beneath the streets of the nation's largest city. □



Steam billows on New York's Fifth Avenue, Thursday, July 19, 2018.

Associated Press

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For Russia, Trump is creating more problems than he solves

By ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Having Donald Trump in the White House is looking increasingly like a liability for the Kremlin, rather than an asset. But don't expect President Vladimir Putin to say that out loud.

Russia's official assessment of Trump's high-stakes summit with Putin is carefully upbeat. In his first public comment on it, Putin on Thursday declared it "successful."

That stands in sharp contrast to the rain of criticism the U.S. president has faced at home. And as the days pass and Trump's comments about Monday's summit become more and more contradictory, Moscow appears to be quietly losing hope for a thaw in Russian-U.S. ties under Trump.

Putin doesn't blame Trump for that. He blames Trump's opponents.

"Certain forces are trying to disavow the results of the meeting in Helsinki," and hamper progress on what they discussed, such as lim-



Russian Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with Russian ambassadors to foreign countries in Moscow, Russia, Thursday, July 19, 2018.

Associated Press

iting their nuclear arsenals or ending the war in Syria, Putin said.

In a meeting at the Foreign Ministry with Russia's ambassadors to other countries, Putin warned them to "take to this into account"

in dealing with the U.S.

The U.S.-Russia relationship is "in some ways worse than during the Cold War," Putin said. "It's naive to think that the problems would be solved in a few hours." The Helsinki summit allowed them to start on "the path to positive change," he said, but added that he was cautious about the longer term.

"We will see how things develop further," Putin said, evoking those in the U.S. trying to prevent any improvement in relations and "putting narrow party interests above the national interest."

The lively debate in Washington is unthinkable in Russia, where Putin has never faced real political opposition and leads a country that has never had a democratic transition of power. While he and Trump seem to be cut from the same cloth, they come from very

different worlds.

In public, Russian officials have been consistent in their praise of the summit and criticism of Trump's opponents, while also exercising caution about taking aim at Trump himself. Behind the scenes, however, some members of the political and business elite have a different assessment.

"Trump's behavior was a total disaster for long-term prospects of the normalization of the U.S.-Russia relationship," said Alexander Gabuev of the Carnegie Moscow Center.

Trump has come under widespread domestic criticism about the meeting with Putin both from Democratic opponents and some Republicans. He has made contradictory statements over whether he believes Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election.

"He's made things much

worse," Gabuev said.

Trump tweeted Thursday that his critics in the media "are pushing so recklessly hard and hate the fact that I'll probably have a good relationship with Putin."

Indeed, when Trump came to office, many Russians hoped he would pave the way for lifting sanctions and ending years of tensions. But now, Gabuev said, "whether this bet on Trump for the long term is a smart one is hard to see."

In a possible dig at Trump's unpredictable presidency, Putin on Thursday lauded Russia's "consistent, responsible, independent foreign policy."

Putin had both good and bad things to say about Trump in a broad speech about foreign policy.

The Russian leader praised Trump's mediation efforts in North Korea, but slammed his protectionist trade policies and the decision to pull out of the international accord curbing Iran's nuclear activities.

He also lashed out at Europe and U.S.-dominated NATO, saying Russia would hit back with an "equivalent response" to the alliance's bases near Russia's borders and other "aggressive steps." He didn't elaborate.

Russian politicians also criticized proposals by U.S. lawmakers to question Trump's interpreter from the Helsinki summit about what topics the men discussed privately.

At his joint news conference with Putin, Trump said they discussed Syria "at length" but was vague about the outcome. The Russian Defense Ministry has said it is ready to implement what it called agreements on increased cooperation with the U.S. military in Syria. □

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Syria rebels agree to surrender frontier with Israel

By PHILIP ISSA

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian rebels agreed to surrender their last pockets of control in southwest Quneitra province to the government, state media reported Thursday, making way for Damascus to re-establish its authority along the Israeli frontier.

The deal, confirmed in its general outlines by a monitoring group and opposition activists in Quneitra, will put the Syrian government face-to-face with Israel along most of its frontier for the first time since 2011, when an uprising against President Bashar Assad's rule swept through Syria.

A fleet of buses reached Quneitra on Thursday night to pick up fighters, activists and other residents who refuse to accept the terms of surrender, and evacuate them to rebel-held areas in northern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said.

An affiliate of the Islamic State group continues to hold a sliver of the frontier. The group is not party to the agreement between the government and rebels.

Syria and Israel fought two wars over their shared border, in 1967 and 1973, with Israel occupying the Golan Heights in the Quneitra province in the former confrontation.

But Israel has refrained from



In this photo a convoy of ambulances carry Syrian citizens evacuated from two pro-government villages of Kfarya and Foua, in Syria, early Thursday, July 19, 2018.

Associated Press

taking sides in Syria's seven-year-long civil war, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has indicated he does not object to the government's return to southwest Syria — as long as Israel's archenemies Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah stay clear of the frontier.

Delegations from the government and rebels met several times over the last two days to negotiate the terms of surrender, said opposition activist and photographer Moaz al-Assaad. Thousands of residents — including rebel fighters, media activists, medical workers and civilians — may

be heading to north Syria instead of staying behind in Quneitra, according to al-Assaad.

The U.N. and human rights organizations have condemned such evacuations as forced displacement. Few who have left are expecting to be able to return to their homes in the near-term.

Earlier on Thursday, a fleet of buses helped evacuate the last remaining residents from Shiite, pro-government villages in northern Syria that endured three years of rebel siege, to government territory in the nearby Aleppo province. Some 7,000 people were

evacuated from Foua and Kfarya, according to state media.

The transfers — which have become a fixture of the war's later stages — are a conspicuous marker of the titanic shifts in Syria's demographics.

Waves of violence against civilians and unforgiving terms of surrender have resulted in the reassortment of the Syrian population. The country's majority Sunni population has been pushed out of the cities and, disproportionately, into camps and exile, while minorities have moved closer to the centers of government control.

The government was expected to release 1,500 militants and opposition activists from its jails in exchange for the Foua and Kfarya evacuations, according to Ahmed el-Sheikho, an official for the Syrian Civil Defense, a search-and-rescue group aligned with the opposition.

But it only released 200, el-Sheikho said, including many who were only picked up in the last few months for minor criminal offenses — prisoners with no connection to the ongoing political turmoil.

In southern Syria, rebels have been powerless to stop a month of government advances through southwest Syria's Daraa and Quneitra provinces, facilitated by a relentless Russian aerial campaign against towns and villages held by the opposition.

Tens of thousands of civilians have been displaced by the fighting, and the U.N.'s children's agency, UNICEF, appealed for access to reach some 55,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance in Quneitra.

Earlier this week, dozens of Syrians marched toward the frontier, pleading for help as government forces, backed by Russia, stepped up airstrikes on Quneitra. Israel has quietly treated thousands of displaced Syrians for wounds and illnesses over the years. □



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Growing extremism threatens Mali's July 29 elections

By CARLEY PETESCH

BABA AHMED

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — As deadly attacks by extremists become more brazen in Mali, officials and citizens fear this month's presidential election will be at risk from growing insecurity. A branch of al-Qaida even set off a car bomb at the headquarters of a new West African counterterror force late last month, further destabilizing central Mali as extremist groups expand from remote northern regions where they have had strongholds for years. A more assertive response by Mali's security forces has led to accusations of extrajudicial killings, while neighbors turn on each other amid suspicions of joining extremist groups. At least 289 civilians including young children have been killed in communal violence since the beginning of the year, with some burned alive in their homes or killed while hiding in mosques, the United Nations said this month.

As the July 29 elections approach, insecurity is a major issue for candidates including President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, who seeks a second term. Experts warn of a humanitarian crisis as hundreds of schools have closed out of fear of attack.

"It would be difficult to organize the elections in my commune in Mondoro, near the border between Mali and Burkina Faso," one local official, Deputy Mayor Moulaye Ongoiba, told The Associated Press. Extremist attacks in the region have



In this photo taken on Monday, July 16, 2018, young supporter of Soumaila Cisse, holds a banner during an election campaign rally in Yanfolila, Mali.

Associated Press

risen over the past year, while tensions grow between ethnic Fulani Muslims and other groups such as the Dogon and Bambara who accuse the Fulani of being recruited by jihadists. "The Malian army attacks the civilians thinking that they are complicit with the jihadists, and the jihadists attack the civilians thinking that they are complicit with the army. It's a chaotic situation," the 32-year-old deputy mayor said. "People are afraid of kamikazes, conflicts in the polling station or even a post-election crisis." The situation is worse than during the previous elections in 2013, Andrew Lebovich, Mali expert and visiting fellow with the European Council on Foreign Relations, told the AP. Five years ago a French

military intervention had pushed al-Qaida-linked fighters from their strongholds in the north and security appeared to be improving. But while the international community has invested millions of dollars in Mali's government, the situation has deteriorated. French soldiers on patrol in the northeastern city of Gao were targeted just two days after the deadly attack on the G5 Sahel headquarters.

With the absence or weakness of state security in some areas, "some communities have had to make a choice to work with extremists or militias," Lebovich said, adding that Malian forces have made it worse by "targeting (Fulani) in central Mali and by making it clear the state was

unwilling to provide security."

The government has confirmed security forces' participation in the extrajudicial killings last month of 25 Fulani men in the central Mopti region, and the U.N. has urged authorities to prevent similar attacks. "These major crimes threaten communal cohesion in Mali and facilitate jihadist groups' recruitment efforts. They also undermine the role the international community plays in Mali, including its training programs for the security forces," Lebovich wrote in a recent report. "Continuing failure to deal with these issues will only make peace harder to achieve."

In a separate report this month, U.N. independent expert Alioune Tine said

Malian authorities must investigate what he called an alarming increase in rights violations by militias "often with the participation of armed groups, resulting in deaths, injuries, destruction or burning of property and people being forced to leave their homes."

He expressed grave concern over the "continuing deterioration" in central Mali and in the region of Menaka, near Niger, which has become a hiding place for extremists linked to the Islamic State group who clash with local self-defense forces. More than 120 people were killed there between April 26 and May 18, Tine said.

Extremists take advantage of the absence of state power, pitting communities against one another, Tine said. Civilians unhappy with Mali's instability may start sympathizing with the extremists or other armed groups, human rights groups have warned.

In one example in January, extremists attacked an army base in the village of Soumphi on the road between Mauritania and Timbuktu. Residents did not condemn the attack, saying they were often stopped by the military along the road and forced to pay bribes.

Extremists have expanded their messaging to address the upcoming vote. When the government in February announced the election dates, al-Qaida's Mali branch issued warnings on social media against going to the polls. □

Chinese president visits UAE amid push to increase influence

By DAVID RISING

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Abu Dhabi on Thursday on his first trip to the United Arab Emirates as the leader of China at a time when the two countries look to strengthen trade ties and expand investment.

It is Xi's first trip abroad since he was appointed to a second five-year term as president in March when he made a historic power grab by moving to abolish presidential term limits, allowing him to rule for as long as he wants. The visit also comes as China pushes to expand its influence in a region where it sources much of its energy needs. China and the UAE conduct some \$50 billion in annual trade and ahead of the trip, the UAE's ambassador to China said the country hopes that will double over the next decade.

Just ahead of Xi's arrival, the state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company announced it had awarded contracts worth \$1.6 billion to the China National Petroleum Company, to conduct a massive offshore and onshore seismic survey.

CNPC, China's largest state-run oil company, already owns interests in both onshore and offshore oil concessions in the UAE.

The UAE, home to oil-rich Abu Dhabi and the skyscraper skylines of Dubai, also hosts some 200,000 Chinese expatriate workers, according to Emirati government statistics. In recent years, the UAE has focused on boosting Chinese tourism to its seven-sheikhdom federation.

Some 1 million Chinese tourists visited in 2017, boosted by the UAE offering visas on arrival. Long-haul carriers Emirates and Etihad provide a crucial airlink between East and West.

"Our relationship with China is a long-term strategic one that encompasses a multitude of aspects; political, economic, cultural, social, tourism, among others," UAE Minister of State Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber said



In this Wednesday, July 18, 2018 photo, sign reading "UAE Chinese Week" in Chinese and Arabic is projected onto the Bus Al Arab luxury hotel in Dubai.

Associated Press

in a statement. "The UAE-China relationship is rooted in the principles of mutual respect, constructive dialogue and meaningful cooperation to achieve their common interests in a variety of sectors."

Ahead of Xi's arrival, the country kicked off an official "UAE-China Week" featuring cultural events and entertainment, which officials say they plan on making an annual event.

Developer Emaar also announced plans for what it said would be the biggest Chinatown in the Mideast: a development of 6 square kilometers (2.3 square miles) that will be located 10 minutes from the Dubai International Airport.

Construction is also a big-ticket market for Chinese firms. In Dubai especially, its massive Sheikh Zayed Road has seen a number of quickly built Chinese overpasses spring up over its dozen lanes. Chinese-built high-rises also have become increasingly common. The state-run China State Construction Engineering Corp. also has contracts with private interests as well. Most noticeably, it won a \$19.6 million contract in June for "major road and infrastructure work" at a development by DAMAC Properties that will surround Dubai's second

Trump golf course. It earlier won a \$130 million contract to build apartment towers near the first Trump golf course, which President Donald Trump's sons Donald Jr. and Eric opened in February 2017. Trump's ties to DAMAC's owner, billionaire businessman Hussain Sajwani, have raised ethics and security questions as the American president did not divest himself from his eponymous development company when taking office. However, the Trump Organization has said it won't make new foreign deals while its namesake is president. China has expanded its influence among Arab states both for economic purposes and to counter the influence of Washington and Europe. □

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Nicaragua marks 1979 revolution amid protests, bloodshed

By LUIS MANUEL GALEANO
MANAGUA, Nicaragua

(AP) — Nicaragua marked the 39th anniversary of the 1979 revolution against dictator Anastasio Somoza on Thursday, despite an ongoing political crisis that has seen hundreds killed in a government crackdown on protesters seeking President Daniel Ortega's exit from office.

Supporters of the president, who helped lead the Sandinista uprising decades ago, say the country has made progress under his rule. But detractors argue that Ortega has become a dictator himself and should step down after consolidating near-total political control in the hands of his family. His wife, Rosario Murillo, occupies the vice presidency.

"I never thought I would see Daniel Ortega become a dictator, let alone a criminal who would try to stay in power with fire and bloodshed," said political analyst Julio Lopez Campos, an ex-guerrilla fighter who was once close to the president.

The Nicaraguan Pro-Human Rights Association has tallied 351 killings related to unrest between April 19 and July 10, while the government puts the figure at



Pro-government supporters check out T-shirts promoting President Daniel Ortega and The Sandinista National Liberation Front political party in Nicaragua, Thursday, July 19, 2018.

Associated Press

more than 200.

Despite the violence, many were expected to gather Thursday afternoon at a public square near Lake Managua to hear Ortega speak during a rally commemorating the fall of the Somoza dictatorship. The annual event usually draws hundreds of thousands of people, including government employees for whom attendance is essentially not optional.

This year, the government

did not organize caravans from other cities as is customary, but instead directed people outside the capital to celebrate locally with piñata parties in parks and plazas.

Many people were still expected to attend the rally in support of the government.

"The revolution is more alive than ever," said Ortega supporter Arelia Membreno, who runs a small business in the Managua

neighborhood of Laureles Sur. "They have given me a loan, a scholarship for my daughter, and the street in front of my house has been paved. Before, it was dirt." But Ortega's ability to hand out such largesse has been crippled by the steady collapse of Venezuela, whose leftist government had sold cut-rate fuel to Nicaragua. With Venezuela's economy crumbling and oil production dropping, it has become harder to subsidize

Nicaraguan fuel purchases.

The opposition Civic Alliance for Justice and Democracy urged Nicaraguans to boycott celebrations and send a message by staying home with their families.

"There is nothing to celebrate," it said in a message circulated on social media, "but rather much to lament."

Thursday also marked three months since the onset of anti-government protests that began over cuts to the social security system but broadened to include demands for Ortega to leave office and early elections to be held.

In his drive to consolidate control, Ortega — who returned to power in 2007 following three failed attempts to win the presidency — has sidestepped term limits to get himself re-elected and packed courts and government agencies with allies. His selection of Murillo as vice president was seen by many as a bid to set up a family dynasty.

Dolma Jerez was outside the Chipote prison Thursday seeking the release of her sister, Irlanda Jerez, who she said was arrested at a protest the previous day. □

Judicial chief resigns in latest scandal rocking Peru



People pass Peru's National Judicial Council headquarters in Lima, Peru, Thursday, July 19, 2018.

Associated Press

By FRANKLIN BRICENO
Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The head of Peru's judicial branch resigned Thursday in the

wake of a mounting corruption scandal involving secret phone recordings capturing numerous judges making behind-the-scenes

deals on everything from promotions to criminal sentences.

The latest scandal to embroil this South American nation has ensnared some of the country's highest-ranking judges and political officials and comes just four months after then-President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski stepped down in a separate corruption probe. In a short letter shared on Twitter, judicial chief Duberli Rodriguez announced he was tendering his resignation "due to the institutional crisis."

The accounts of judicial misconduct became public two weeks ago when the Peruvian investigative news website IDL-Reporteros and

the "Panorama" new analysis television show published a series of telephone recordings involving an extensive network of judges, businessmen and local authorities describing back-room deals.

In one recording, judge Cesar Hinostroza is caught talking with an unidentified person about the suspect in the rape of an 11-year-old girl.

After asking the child's age and whether she had been "deflowered," Hinostroza promises to pull up the case file and investigate. Then he asks: "What do you all want?"

For the sentence to be reduced or be declared innocent?"

It remains unclear whether the suspect was actually let off, but in the past Hinostroza has acquitted three other suspects accused of raping minors. Hinostroza managed to ascend to the country's Supreme Court despite accusations of previous misconduct, including having allegedly plagiarized his thesis and a book that bears his name. He has now been suspended.

Other recordings describe members of powerful judicial commissions helping judges and prosecutors get promotions over more well-qualified candidates, apparently maneuvering with tactics like asking candidates irrelevant questions during interviews. □

LOCAL



One wig One smile



ORANJESTAD — Mary Joan Foundation was established in 2007 and offers support to all women who are confronted with breast cancer as well as their families and friends. Their purpose is to create an easily accessible, holistic and integrated, patient and survivor friendly, care system for breast cancer in Aruba.

Recently, two representatives of Mary Joan Foundation, Mrs. Arabella Colina and Mr. Jose Tromp received the certification for oncological artisan hair from a certified instructor in order to make wigs from human hair.

In the month of June the two representatives traveled to the city of Morelia, Mexico in order to get certified. In order to take part of this course the representatives needed to undergo a psychological process. During the course they made a wig with the guidance of the authorized person to give this 'train the trainer' course. At the end of the course the wig was evaluated and both successfully completed this task and got certified for this technique.

Mary Joan Foundation is very grateful to the government of Mexico, who financed this course and made it possible for two members of the board to get certified as 'train the trainer'. Also special thanks goes to Dr. Carlos Ramos Es-

quivel, secretary of the state of Michoacan, the President of the program Volunteers of Morelia, Mrs. Patricia Tello and the coordinator of the hair bank Mrs. Maria Dolores Maldonado Bustamante and the entire team for their dedication and aid to make this achievement possible.

Hair loss during the chemotherapy can be very traumatizing for the patient and can lead to a negative factor in their recovery. According to experts the physical aspect also contributes positively in the process of recovery. An oncological wig can be of great support for the patients self-esteem and emotional wellness.

The project

30% of the oncological artisan wig is being sewed on the machine and 70% is sewed by hand. A wig of human hair has a value between 1000 to 1500 dollars. This can be a burden for many patients of Aruba and the Caribbean in general, therefore has Mary Joan Foundation decided to have their two members certified in order to have these wigs made here. The two certified persons can train their volunteers to make the wigs so that these oncological wigs can be given for free to the person who suffers from cancer. The goal of Mary Joan Foundation is to put a smile on the face of the patient and in that way get their spirit and self-esteem high in a positive way. The moment a person

gets detected with breast cancer and before undergoing the first chemotherapy treatment, if the hair is long enough this person can donate her hair and that way part of the hair can be used for her own wig.

The Project is called "One wig One smile" and it will consist of different phases. First phase will be collecting hair so that there will be enough hair in the bank to make the wigs and also to have continuity of the Project. Mary Joan Foundation and the state of Michoacan wish to export these wigs in the Caribbean region and with the expertise acquired they can achieve this goal.

Requirements for the donation:

- Hair must be at least 15 cm long
- Hair must be washed prior to donation
- Hair can be cut at a hairdresser registered for this Project. The hairdresser will give the hair to the foundation. If the person cuts their hair somewhere else than this should be delivered personally at the office of Mary Joan Foundation. □

Mary Joan Foundation wants to thank all who have put their trust in them and have donated their hair during the last years. Also they want to encourage the entire community to make a donation of hair for the Project 'one wig one smile'



Openings Concert Aruba Symphony Festival



ORANJESTAD — Performing at the opening concert of the Aruba Symphony Festival, this Saturday, Aruba's own choirs Ars Nova and Cantare together with international well-known musicians.

Ars Nova is a mixed chamber choir that was formed in 1998 by Mayra Kock-Garrido and her husband, Edwin Kock. Their main objective is to perform and promote the best of the national and universal choral art form. Ars Nova's repertoire consists of the most classical of choral music, including the Caribbean and Latin American rhythms and autochthonous genre. Among its many activities is included participation in several prominent international festivals held in Spain, the Netherlands, Colombia, Peru, Cuba, Curacao and Ecuador. The main objective of the Ars Nova Choral Association is to promote and stimulate the development of music in order to increase the appreciation and production of vocal music in Aruba. The Ars Nova Choral Association has recently expanded its membership to include the choir Cantare.

Cantare is a female choir that was formed in

2010 and consists of 16 singers. Its repertoire is varied and consists of original works arranged for 2 or 3 voices. Cantare has participated with the Ars Nova choir in all its concerts and social-educative activities. The inclusion of Cantare in the association represents a very important step in the development of choral singing in Aruba, not only by sharing choral singing as an artistic expression, but also as a way of socialization, co-existence and inclusion.

The Program

The program for this night sounds as follows:
 Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, Stabat Mater (Quando Corpus Morietur – Amen)
 Cancion de Cuna Yemaya, Tradicional Yoruba, arr. Sergio Morales
 John Rutter, It was a Lover and his Lass (from Three Birthday Madrigals)
 J.C. Lampe, Ban Bail'e Danza Aki, arr. Johnny Croes
 Rufo Wever, Pan Cayente
 Female Choir Cantare, Aruba
 Mayra Garrido Artistic director
 Rob Rijnbout, Piano
 Giovanni Ras, Guitar and Cuatro
 Ryan Maduro, Guitar and Cuatro
 Edwin Kock, Guitar
 Claudio de Sermisy, Au Joli Bois
 Chanson Anon, Tourdion
 W.A. Mozart, Ave Verum
 W.A. Mozart, Kyrie (Misa Brevis in C)
 Anonimo, E Mariposa, arr. Kock-Garrido
 Lampe Booij-Wever, Chanita, arr. Sergio Morales
 Ars Nova Choir, Aruba

INTERMISSION

Mendelssohn Piano Trio N.1 in D Min. op.49
 Reveron Piano Trio:
 Ana Maria Otamendi, Piano
 Simon Gollo, Violin
 Horacio Contreras, Cello

The opening concert is on Saturday, July 21,

8:00 pm at Cas di Cultura. Admission: Afls. 35,00
 Tickets available at: Cas di Cultura, DeWit & VanDorp and at the entrance. □



Artistic Aruban Gustave Nouel

THE NETHERLANDS — The well-known Aruban artist-painter Gustave Nouel participating this year with the prestigious Deventer Salon, with 80 professional artists participants, in the 'Bergkerk', from July 21 to September 30, 2018. (His entries for the Deventer Salon are inspired by his dreams and identity as a Dutch Caribbean artist, in the paintings: 'diptych-' Mythical dust of stars? ' and 'Maxima, Universal violinist? ')

Gustave Nouel, with more than 200 exhibitions at home and abroad on his name, is a specialist in portrait drawing and portrait painting. He is one of the best known and most rec-

ognized art painters from the Caribbean, in the Netherlands.

During the 'Open Ateliers', linked to this Salon (<https://kunstenlab.nl/nu-te-zien/salon-open-ateliers-2018/>), some of Gustave's talented pupils will be making street-sketches of the visitors in his atelier. Nouel will also share a performance quick-sketching and give a mini-workshop, between 15:00 and 16:00hr, this November 22 and 23.

Until September 11, Nouel will offer workshops in quick-sketching and painting of portraits for all levels, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday evening from 7:30

to 9:30 pm in his studio at 'Plataan', Ramelestraat 6H, Deventer.

The celebration of 1250 years of the city of Deventer in 2018, inspired the Aruban

artist to create a special birthday calendar. □



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EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Darline S. de Cuba had the great pleasure to honor Loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Goodwill Ambassadors at their home away from home.

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Mr. Michael Pistillo & Anna Maleski are residents from New York Franklin Square.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between 10-20-35 and more consecutive years.

Ms. Darline de Cuba thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. Together with Sandra Miller Cornet member of Paradise Beach Club at the ceremony they handed out some presents to the honorees.

Visitors stated that the main reasons for returning to Aruba is because:
They love the weather, the people of Aruba and the Sunset.□



The award goes to.... BUCUTI & TARA BEACH RESORT

EAGLE BEACH, Aruba — Trusted travel media outlet Travel + Leisure just named Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort to its prestigious 2018 Top 25 Resorts in the Caribbean, Bermuda and the Bahamas. The Eagle Beach resort is the only property on Aruba to earn a spot on the highly-coveted list.

Adding to the news, the island itself was named to the 2018 Top 15 Islands in the Caribbean, Bermuda and the Bahamas.

"Every year, we ask Travel + Leisure readers to rank their travel experiences across the globe for our World's Best Awards," says Nathan Lump, editor in chief of Travel + Leisure. "Now in its 23rd year, the Awards high-

light the cities, islands, hotels, airports, spas, cruises — and much more — that define the very best in travel.

"It's an honor to be recognized by our guests and readers of Travel + Leisure as one of the top 10 resorts in the Caribbean," says Ewald Biemans, CEO and owner of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. "We love being the destination of choice for our guests. This is another testament to the dedication of our talented hospitality professionals who strive to ensure every Bucuti & Tara vacation is wonderfully memorable." The 2018 World's Best Awards will also be included in the August issue due on newsstands in mid-July. To learn more, visit Bucuti.com. □



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- Excellent communication skills
- Polite and confident with a great deal of patience
- Ability in multitasking and time-management
- Aptitude in resolving issues with a customer-focused orientation
- High school diploma; degree in hotel management or relevant field will be a plus

PART-TIME HOTEL DOORMAN

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- Ability to work cohesively with fellow colleagues as part of a team
- Ability to focus attention on guest needs, remaining calm and courteous at all times

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No time for snow!

PALM BEACH — Julio (42), Eli (40), Renato (10) and Gabriel (8) are from Chile.

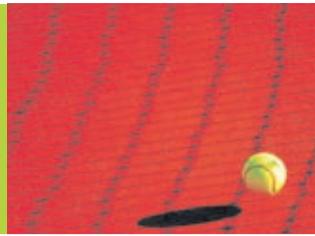
As it is wintertime there, the family is on a winter holiday; no skiing, snowboarding or snowtubing, but sunbathing on Aruba is what they are here for. We caught up with this nice family at Fishes & More Restaurant in the Arawak Garden across from the Barceló Resort, where they were having the Catch of the Day Ca-

ribbean style and chicken Parmesan. The kids ordered chicken nuggets, fries and a salad - something kids all over the world are crazy about.

Julio and Eli like the island a lot and the food at Fishes & More was great as well with good portions. We hope you had a great time on Aruba - and best of luck in your winter temperatures! □



SPORTS



In this May 23, 1941 file photo, outfielder for the Boston Red Sox Ted Williams poses at Yankee Stadium in New York City.

Associated Press

Ted Williams' Mexican-American heritage explored in PBS film

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Ted Williams is the last major league baseball player to hit over .400. The Boston Red Sox slugger captivated millions with his dazzling swing and towering homers throughout the 1940s and 1950s in competition with New York Yankees hero Joe DiMaggio.

But beneath the smiles and happy trots around the bases sat a man consumed with rage. For years, the baseball legend would shun his ethnic heritage and kept his family's past a secret. Only when he'd begin to speak out on behalf of black players would he begin to slowly reveal his connections to his Mexican-American Southern California family and the experiences that shaped him.

A new PBS "American Masters" documentary explores the life of Williams and his volatile relationships with his family and the press.

Continued on Page 21



Kisner takes Open lead at tough Carnoustie

Kevin Kisner of the U.S. puts on the 15th green during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland, Thursday July 19, 2018.

Associated Press
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APNewsBreak: Dolphins anthem punishment includes suspensions

By ROB MAADDI
AP Pro Football Writer

Miami Dolphins players who protest on the field during the national anthem could be suspended for up to four games under a team policy issued this week.

The "Proper Anthem Conduct" section is just one sentence in a nine-page discipline document provided to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the policy who insisted on anonymity because the document is not public. It classifies anthem protests under a large list of "conduct detrimental to the club," all of which could lead to a paid or unpaid suspension, a fine or both.

Miami's anthem policy comes after the NFL decided in May that teams would be fined if players didn't stand during "The Star-Spangled Banner" while on the field. The league left it up to teams on how to punish players. None of the team policies have been made public. The NFL rule forbids players from sitting or taking a knee if they are on the field or sidelines during the national anthem, but allows them to stay in the locker room if they wish. The new league rules were challenged this month in a grievance by the players union.

The NFL declined to com-



In this Sept. 11, 2017 file photo, from left, Miami Dolphins' Jelani Jenkins, Arian Foster, Michael Thomas, and Kenny Stills, kneel during the singing of the national anthem before an NFL football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Seattle.

Associated Press

ment. Team officials had no immediate comment. "Players who are on the field during the Anthem performance must stand and show respect for the flag and the Anthem," says the 16th and final bullet point in the list of conduct considered detrimental, below riding motorcycles during the season and disparaging teammates, coaches or officials including NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. The NFLPA said earlier this month that the NFL policy, which the league imposed

without consultation with the players union, is inconsistent with the collective bargaining agreement and infringes on player rights. The filing will be heard by an independent arbitrator, an NFLPA spokesman said. When the league announced the policy, Goodell called it a compromise aimed at putting the focus back on football after a tumultuous year in which television ratings dipped nearly 10 percent. The union said when it filed the grievance that it pro-

posed having its executive committee talk to the NFL instead of litigating. The union said the NFL agreed to those discussions. In 2016, then-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick began protesting police brutality, social injustice and racial inequality by kneeling during the national anthem and the demonstration spread to other players and teams. It became one of the most controversial and sensitive issues in sports. Critics led by President Donald Trump called the play-

ers unpatriotic and even said NFL owners should fire any player who refused to stand during the anthem. Some players countered that their actions were being misconstrued and that they are seeking social change rather than protesting the anthem itself. Trump's criticism led more than 200 players to protest during one weekend, and some kept it up throughout the season. The NFL started requiring players to be on the field for the anthem in 2009. "We want people to be respectful of the national anthem. We want people to stand," Goodell said at the May meetings, when he dismissed concerns about the lack of union involvement by contending the league met with countless players over the past year. "We've been very sensitive on making sure that we give players choices," the commissioner added, "but we do believe that moment is an important moment and one that we are going to focus on." The league and a coalition of players have been working in tandem to support player initiatives for a variety of social issues. The NFL is committing \$90 million over the next seven years to social justice causes in a three-segment plan that involves league players. □



In this Aug. 31, 2010, file photo, Chris Chelios talks about his retirement from the National Hockey League and his new role with the Detroit Red Wings during a news conference in Detroit.

DETROIT (AP) — Chris Chelios is leaving the Detroit Red Wings to return to his hometown of Chicago. Chelios spent a decade with the Red Wings as a player from 1999-2009, and

he's also been an adviser for the team. His Hall of Fame career as a defenceman started in Montreal before he spent eight years with the Blackhawks. "For me, this is an opportu-

Chelios leaving Red Wings to return to Chicago

nity to move back to Chicago to be closer to family, and in particular my mother," Chelios said Thursday. "I began to seriously consider moving home last February after the passing of my father. Now that my children have all graduated, it seems like the ideal time for my wife, Tracee, and I to make the move."

Chelios was traded to Detroit in March 1999 and he remained with the Red Wings through the 2008-09 season before finishing his career with a brief stint with

Atlanta in 2009-10. "I've thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Red Wings organization over the last 19 years," Chelios said. "Admittedly, I was skeptical about the 1999 trade that brought me to Detroit. As a Chicago guy who was playing for the Blackhawks at the time, we despised those Detroit teams of the 1990s. After the trade, however, things changed quickly and I began to feel right at home." Chelios and the Red Wings won Stanley Cups in 2002

and 2008. "What an unbelievable experience, playing on some of the greatest teams in league history, with some of the greatest players of all-time," Chelios said. "I consider myself extremely lucky to have been a part of it all. The Cup-winning teams in 2002 and 2008 are the obvious highlights, but I'm grateful for every chance I had to put on a Red Wings sweater." Chelios' son Jake is a defenceman as well and is in the Red Wings' organization. □

Dodgers land All-Star shortstop Manny Machado from Orioles

By BEN WALKER and DAVID GINSBURG
AP Sports Writers

The Los Angeles Dodgers won the Manny Machado sweepstakes, getting the prized All-Star shortstop from the Baltimore Orioles in a trade Wednesday night.

The Orioles received five prospects: outfielder Yusniel Diaz, right-handers Dean Kremer and Zach Pop, and third basemen Rylan Bannon and Breyvic Valera.

Machado, a 26-year-old power hitter with extraordinary fielding skills, greatly improves the Dodgers' chances of reaching the World Series for a second consecutive year. He led Baltimore in batting average (.315), home runs (24) and RBIs (65).

Machado is expected to be introduced in Milwaukee on Friday before the Dodgers open a series against the Brewers.

"We viewed Manny Machado as a big difference maker," Dodgers general manager Farhan Zaidi said. The Dodgers are in a close race in the NL West, leading Arizona by a half-game going into the second half.

"Our first hope is we have a division-winning roster," Zaidi said. "Any time you have a chance to add an impact player in a tight division race that's something you have to look at closely." Machado's contract expires at the end of the season, and the last-place Orioles decided against negotiating an expensive, multi-year extension because they have too many holes as the team moves into a rebuilding mode.

"We tried to maintain a competitive club this year, and that's why we resisted the offers we had in the offseason to trade Manny," Dan Duquette, the Orioles' executive vice president of baseball operations, said. "But when it became obvious that it was time to look to the future, trading Manny is the first step in the plan to rebuild our ballclub."

Asked if the Dodgers would re-sign Machado, Zaidi demurred.

"Let's have him at least

show up in a Dodger uniform before we start asking those questions," he said. "We hope he plays well and creates a good market for himself. We're not worried about what happens past 2018."

Though only a summer rental, Machado was coveted by a variety of contenders, including Philadelphia, Milwaukee, the Chicago Cubs and Arizona.

"We liked the depth of the Dodger package, we liked the quality of the players in the package and we liked Yusniel Diaz, a player we feel is a gifted hitter," Duquette said. "We felt he was clearly the best player offered to us during this recent market. He was the key to the trade. But the other players in the trade are also very talented."

The 21-year-old Diaz hit two home runs in the All-Star Futures Game last weekend. He's hitting .314 with a .905 OPS with six homers, 30 RBIs and 36 runs scored this season.

Duquette said Valera will be optioned to Triple-A Norfolk, and the other four players will be sent to Double-A Bowie.

Los Angeles gets a four-time AL All-Star with two Gold Gloves who has 129 homers over the last 3½ seasons. Machado was drafted third overall by the Orioles in 2010, made his big league debut in 2012 and spent his entire major league career in Baltimore. "Obviously, it's a bittersweet day for our organization," Duquette said. "We watched Manny grow up in our franchise the past eight years. We all know what an exceptional talent he is, from the great plays that he made to his elite hitting. He's always going to be a part of our important part of our club's history."

The Dodgers are filling a gaping hole at shortstop created by the loss of Corey Seager, who is out for the season after undergoing Tommy John surgery in May.

And Machado moves from a cellar-dweller to a division-leading club in the middle of a pennant race.



In this Saturday, May 19, 2018 file photo, Baltimore Orioles' Manny Machado throws to first base to make the double play on Boston Red Sox's Eduardo Nunez during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Boston.

Associated Press

Not only that, but Machado likely gets to stay at shortstop, the position he manned this year after previously playing third base for Baltimore.

"I love playing short. I mean, I love it," Machado said last week. "I'm more excited playing shortstop than I've ever been. I'm more into

the game. This is where I've always wanted to be, this is what brings the best player out of me."

Zaidi said Dodgers manager Dave Roberts has explained to Machado about how much the team values flexibility and versatility in playing different positions. "Manny being flexible with

that and being able to move between shortstop and third, we believe he can be an asset at both those positions," Zaidi said. "When JT (Justin Turner) is down, Manny's ability and willingness to play third base on those occasions will be really important going forward. □



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Kisner takes lead, Carnoustie holds its own at British Open

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

CARNOUSTIE, Scotland

(AP) — The silver claret jug was on the first tee Thursday morning at Carnoustie, a trophy that Kevin Kisner knows all too well.

Kisner flew home from the British Open last year with Jordan Spieth, a flight that was delayed while waiting on Spieth to finish up his duties as the champion golfer of the year. Just last week, Kisner was on the plane with Spieth to Paris to see the Ryder Cup course, and Spieth had to bring the jug along to return it to the R&A when they arrived at this links along the North Sea.

"And I'm staying with him this week, and he no longer has it," Kisner said. "He gave it back Monday. It would be cool to return the favor."

Kisner played like he was serious about that.

He made a long eagle putt on the par-5 sixth. He ran off three straight birdies on the back nine. Kisner finished with a 5-under 66 before some 60 players had even started the opening round, and nobody could catch him.

In what might be the easiest conditions of the week, Kisner kept the ball in play and made just about everything. He took only 22 putts and had a one-shot lead, giving him little more than bragging rights in the house of stars where he is staying, with roommates that include five major champions and Rickie Fowler.

"The golf course is great for me," Kisner said. "The conditions have been fine. Going forward, you never know what you're going to have in Scotland. I know the rain is coming in tomorrow. I don't think the rain is going to affect how the golf course is playing in one day, but I have to just keep doing what I'm doing. If I have 22 puts the next three days, I bet I'll have a pretty good shot."

Carnoustie still managed to hold its own.

One shot behind was a collection of players with little history in golf's biggest



Kevin Kisner of the US after putting out on the 17th hole during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie, Scotland, Thursday July 19, 2018.

events, including Erik Van Rooyen and Zander Lombard of South Africa. Tony Finau had eight birdies to offset his share of mistakes to join them at 67.

Of the top seven on the leaderboard, none has won a major.

Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm powered their way to 69s, going for the green on short par 4s. Tiger Woods took out his driver one time and shot 71, a round slowed by a short putt he missed and a pot bunker he couldn't avoid.

"I played better than what the score indicates," Woods said. "I had two 8-irons into both par 5s to-

day, and I end up with par on both of those. If I just clean up those two holes and play them the way I'm supposed to play them with 8-iron in my hand, I think I'd probably have the best round in the afternoon wave."

Almost. Eleven of the 31 players who broke par were in the afternoon side of the draw.

Even so, no one could really low. And those 31 players who broke par were separated by just four shots.

Three of Kisner's roommates also were under par — PGA champion Justin Thomas (69), two-time major champion Zach John-

son (70) and Fowler (70). Another is Spieth, who was in range of the lead until he made one mental error and two bad swings while dropping four shots over the last four holes for a 72 that didn't do too much damage.

Even in gentle weather by Scottish standards, Carnoustie served up its usual dose of craziness.

Padraig Harrington holed a short putt for par on the opening hole and turned to leave when he saw a golf ball trundle onto the green. It was the tee shot of U.S. Open champion Brooks Koepka, who hit driver off the tee to set up an easy birdie.

That was as easy as it got for Koepka for the next two hours. He shot 41 on the front nine. And then he shot 31 on the back nine.

"The scores probably weren't as low as we anticipated, but 1 over is not the worst," Koepka said. "Definitely didn't shoot myself out of it, which very easily could have happened."

Sergio Garcia hit a drive that never stopped rolling on No. 10 until it dropped over the edge of Barry Burn. The water was shallow enough for the former Masters champion to smash through a ball rock and water to get the club on the ball and escape without further damage.

Carnoustie was not kind to everyone.

Dustin Johnson, the world's No. 1 player, managed only one birdie in his round of 76, his highest start in the Open since his debut at Turnberry in 2009. Masters champion Patrick Reed, Hideki Matsuyama, Bubba Watson and Garcia were all at 75 and now have to worry about just getting to the weekend.

On the longest day — from Sandy Lyle hitting the opening tee shot at 6:35 a.m. and the group including newcomer Bronson Burgoon finishing off the first round nearly 13 hours later — everyone had their own style of getting around the course reputed to be the toughest links in golf.

"Different players are going to have a different way to see how they're going to play this golf course," McIlroy said.

"I know Tiger is out there hitting a lot of irons off tees and doing it his own way. No one's going to argue with him — he did it like at Hoylake, and he was able to win there."

There's one difference, Woods said.

"Hoylake is flat. This is not," Woods said. "And when Hideki hits a 3-wood 400 yards into a burn, you know it's kind of quick."

A couple of my 6-irons went about 240. It's hard for people to understand it, but it's just the nature of this golf course." □

AP source: Falcons won't offer WR Jones new deal this year

By PAUL NEWBERRY

ATLANTA (AP) — Stifled by the salary cap, the Atlanta Falcons won't be offering Julio Jones a more lucrative contract.

Not this year, at least.

Now the question is: Will the star receiver show up for training camp?

The Falcons informed Jones several weeks ago that they would not renegotiate his current \$71.5 million package, which still has three years remaining and included \$47 million in guaranteed money, according to a person familiar with the discussions. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because the talks have not been made public.

The team's decision, which was first reported by The Athletic, does not preclude talks after the season on a deal more in line with

Jones' status as one of the NFL's top receivers. But the Falcons do not believe they have enough financial leeway under the cap to renegotiate the contract in 2018.

The team hasn't been told if Jones will be at training camp. Players are required to report next Thursday, with the first practice the following day.

Atlanta already agreed to a five-year, \$150 million extension with quarterback Matt Ryan, the most lucrative deal in NFL history. The team is also focused on working out new contracts for defensive tackle Grady Jarrett, offensive guard Jake Matthews and safety Ricardo Allen.

A flurry of new contracts during the off-season dropped Jones, who makes an average salary of \$14.25 million, out of the top half-dozen on the list of

the league's highest-paid receivers. Tampa Bay's Mike Evans, Cleveland's Jarvis Landry and Kansas City's Sammy Watkins are among those now making more per year than Jones, a two-time All-Pro who caught 88 passes for 1,444 yards last season.

In 2015, Jones turned in one of the greatest seasons by a receiver with 136 receptions for 1,871 yards and eight touchdowns. He is a five-time Pro Bowler.

In an apparent sign of his unhappiness, Jones skipped organized team workouts at the team's training facility this summer, as well as a mandatory minicamp. But he apparently took part in Ryan's private passing camp in California along with about a dozen of his teammates this month.

Jones has gone silent on social media and hasn't



In this Jan. 13, 2018, file photo, Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones (11) runs during an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Philadelphia Eagles, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

talked with the Atlanta media in months. In one of his rare media appearances, he told TMZ that he has a good relationship with the franchise that pulled off a huge trade with Cleveland to make him a first-round pick in 2011.

"Everyone wants a story right now. There's no story to be told," Jones insisted.

"I'm just working on getting myself better. I'm just working on myself right now. That's all that is. There's no bad blood between me and the team or anything like that."

Jones remains in the good graces of coach Dan Quinn, who didn't seem at all upset when Jones skipped the minicamp. □

TED WILLIAMS

Continued from Page 17

The upcoming film uses rare footage and family interviews to paint a picture of an entangled figure who hid his past while enjoying the admiration of adoring fans. It includes unreleased color footage of Williams' final game that was shot by a fan.

Williams, often called the "greatest hitter who ever lived," was followed closely by sports writers thanks to his superb slugging skills and John Wayne-like persona as a foul-mouth outdoorsman. But the future Hall of Famer regularly clashed with critical journalists and had public spats with his numerous wives. The slugger also lost prime years because of service in World War II and the Korean War — something that angered him.

"We wanted to know...who was this man, who had such an effect on so many people?" director Nick Davis said. "He was so complicated and so full of contradictions and rages. Where did it all come from?"

The San Diego-born Wil-

liams played 19 years as a left fielder for the Boston Red Sox where he won two American League Most Valuable Player Awards and twice took the Triple Crown. He finished his career with a .344 batting average and 521 home runs, both of which rank among the top in baseball history. While many of Williams' professional accomplishments and personal clashes were widely known, Davis said few knew about Williams' ethnic background until Ben Bradlee, Jr.'s well-researched 2013 book, "The Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams."

Davis said Williams kept his Mexican-American heritage a secret at a time when no black players were allowed in the major leagues and the Red Sox were owned by Tom Yawkey, a controversial figure who was the last owner to integrate a major league baseball team. Williams was born to Samuel Stuart Williams, a white photographer and pickle salesman, and May Venzor, a Mexican-American Salvation Army devotee

who often volunteered in Tijuana, Mexico, leaving Williams and his brother to fend for themselves with their alcoholic father, Bradlee said. His Mexican family ended up in San Diego as tension simmered before the Mexican Revolution began in 1910.

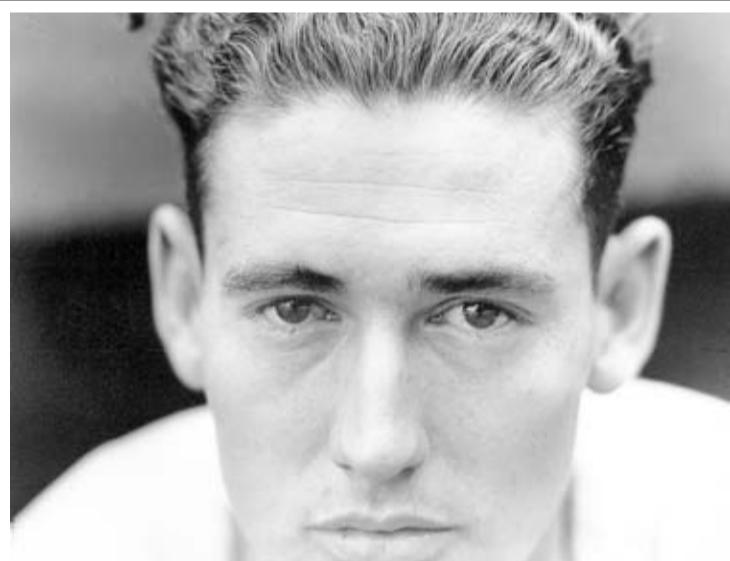
It's a past Williams concealed until near the end of his life, said Bradlee. "He was ashamed."

After his sensational 1939 rookie year, Williams returned to San Diego to find around 20 of his Mexican-Americans relatives waiting for him at the train station. Williams took one look at them and fled.

Bradlee, who was among those interviewed for the film and who found some of Williams' cousins, said the family remained proud of his on-the-field achievements.

"But you can see they were a little bit hurt that he had shunned them," Bradlee said.

In the film, daughter Claudia Williams said she would sometimes ask her father about his mother. But he refused to talk about her,



This May 23, 1941, file photo shows Ted Williams, outfielder for the Boston Red Sox, at Yankee Stadium in New York City.

Associated Press

or his past, she said.

Williams was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame as soon as he became eligible. Williams wanted to use his speech to call for the Hall of Fame to recognize players of the Negro Leagues who had been excluded solely based on their skin color. Friends would say Williams, despite his own ambivalence about his own background, remembered the discrimination Mexican Americans faced in Cali-

fornia.

But baseball officials wanted Williams to drop the reference. "You don't tell Ted Williams what he can and cannot do," Claudia Williams said in the film.

Williams gave his Hall of Fame speech his way, and soon after, players of the Negro Leagues were inducted into the Hall of Fame. American Masters "Ted Williams: 'The Greatest Hitter Who Ever Lived'" airs on most PBS stations on Monday. □

AP Source: Thunder trade Anthony to Hawks, waiver likely

By CLIFF BRUNT

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Carmelo Anthony is done in Oklahoma City.

A person with knowledge of the details told The Associated Press the Thunder are sending Anthony and a 2022 protected first-round pick to Atlanta in exchange for Hawks guard Dennis Schroder and Mike Muscala. Anthony will be waived by the Hawks, clearing the way for him to sign as a free agent elsewhere. The person spoke Thursday on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the situation publicly.

ESPN, which first reported the trade, said the Thunder will send Muscala to the Philadelphia 76ers for Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot, and Philadelphia's Justin Anderson will be sent to Atlanta. Schroder, a speedy 6-foot-1 guard, averaged a career-high 19.4 points last season for the Hawks in 67 games, all starts.

Anthony's lone season in Oklahoma City was largely a bust. He averaged 16.2 points and struggled at



This is an April 25, 2018, file photo showing Oklahoma City Thunder forward Carmelo Anthony (7) during Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series against the Utah Jazz, in Oklahoma City.

times in his new role alongside Russell Westbrook and Paul George. The 10-time All-Star posted career lows in scoring average and field goal percentage, and the Thunder were ousted in the first round of the playoffs by Utah.

The 34-year-old Anthony had been the headliner his entire career — he's 19th in NBA history with 25,417 points — but he was more of a catch-and-shoot scor-

er last season instead of the isolation specialist he had always been. His playing time dwindled in the playoffs. In Game 6 of the first-round series against Utah that ended Oklahoma City's season, he played fewer minutes than reserve Jerami Grant. After the season, he said he prefers to play with the ball in his hands more and said coming off the bench is "out of the question."

Associated Press

Anthony opted in earlier this summer to accept the \$28 million he was due next season. The Thunder re-signed Grant, then it was reported that Anthony and the Thunder would eventually part ways, though it was unclear how it would happen. Schroder will likely fill a role for the Thunder similar to that of James Harden and Reggie Jackson in the past — explosive player who

thrives as a lead scorer with the second unit. The Thunder are poised to be one of the best teams in the West after re-signing Paul George and Grant, adding center Nerlens Noel and Schroder and getting defensive stopper Andre Roberson back from a ruptured left patellar tendon that cost him the last three months of the season.

Schroder comes with some baggage. He was arrested in September following a fight at a hookah bar, an issue that has not been resolved. He was benched for most of the second half in a game during the 2016-17 season when he began arguing with Dwight Howard on the court, didn't guard his man and gave up an easy basket. He was suspended for one game in 2017 when he returned late from the All-Star break. The Hawks at one point considered Schroder their future cornerstone, but they switched directions and drafted Oklahoma's Trae Young in the first round of this year. The Hawks also added Brooklyn's Jeremy Lin. □

Delle Donne and Parker choose their teams for All-Star Game



Minnesota Lynx Maya Moore passes the ball to a teammate during a WNBA basketball game against the Indiana Fever, Wednesday, July 18, 2018 in Minneapolis.

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The draft is finished and the squads are set for Team Delle Donne and Team Parker in the WNBA All-Star Game.

The league switched its format this year with captains choosing the sides and getting rid of conference

affiliations. Both Candace Parker and Elena Delle Donne kept their WNBA teammates close for the game that will be played in Minnesota on July 28. Delle Donne said she took her Washington Mystics teammate Kristi Toliver first. Parker drafted Sparks teammates Chelsea Gray

and Nneka Ogwumike. Ogwumike also will be able to play with sister Chiney for the first time in their pro careers as she's also on Team Parker.

"I'm thrilled to be able to play with my sister for the first time since Stanford," Chiney Ogwumike texted the AP.

The draft, which wasn't publicly revealed, was conducted earlier Thursday via a conference call between the two captains.

"It's been a lot of fun. I'm glad we only picked earlier this morning as I haven't had to keep the secret for too long," Delle Donne said. "Candace and I were going back and forth on the phone. ... How can you go wrong when you have a group of All-Stars." Other members of Parker's team are guards Skylar Diggins-Smith, Jewell Loyd and Al-

lie Quigley. In the frontcourt are Liz Cambage, Tina Charles, Angel McCoughtry and Maya Moore. Moore was supposed to be captain of this team as she was the top vote-getter, but declined.

Delle Donne's team includes Seimone Augustus, Sue Bird, Kayla McBride and Diana Taurasi. Bird is playing in her record 11th All-Star Game. In the frontcourt will be DeWanna Bonner, Sylvia Fowles, Brittney Griner, Breanna Stewart and A'ja Wilson.

Seven players who were on the 2016 Olympic team in Rio are on Delle Donne's team.

Here are a few other tidbits from the All-Star teams:

3-POINT SHOOTOUT: For the second consecutive year the WNBA, in partnership with the Women's National Basketball Players Associa-

tion, will donate \$10,000 to a charity of the winner of the 3-point contest.

Allie Quigley won last year and she most likely will try and defend her title, although the league hasn't released the participants yet.

GOTTA BE THE SHOES: A few of the players have bonuses in their shoe contracts tied to starting the All-Star Game. In the past it would be decided by the fan vote, but this year with the new format, the team captains and coaches will decide who starts on July 27 — the day before the game. When the NBA changed its All-Star format this past season, the fans still chose the starting 10 players before they were drafted by the captains.

The WNBA didn't release who the top 10 vote-getters were. □

Rowdy Tour fans tarnish win for Thomas atop Alpe d'Huez

By ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

ALPE D'HUEZ, France (AP)

— One of cycling's big attractions is that fans don't have to pay to watch — and they can get as close as they want to the riders. The sport paid for that unlimited access Thursday when unruly spectators interrupted the most iconic climb of the Tour de France. With fans pressing too close to an elite group of riders at the conclusion of the 21 hairpin bends up to Alpe d'Huez, top contender Vincenzo Nibali crashed into a police motorbike and later withdrew from the race, four-time champion Chris Froome received some undesired contact on his back, and yellow jersey holder Geraint Thomas was booed on the podium. "If people don't like Sky and want to boo, that's fine. Boo all you like, but don't affect the race," Thomas said. "Don't touch the riders. Don't spit at us. Voice your opinions all you want but let us do the racing."

Attitudes toward Sky soured when Froome was involved in an asthma drug case

stemming from last year's Spanish Vuelta — even though he was cleared of wrongdoing just days before the Tour started.

Froome is attempting to match the record of five Tour victories shared by Jacques Anquetil, Eddy Merckx, Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain.

Thomas sprinted away from Sky teammate Froome and a couple of other riders to win Stage 12, becoming the first rider in Tour history to win atop Huez in the yellow jersey.

Lance Armstrong won an individual time trial up Huez in 2004 while wearing yellow but that victory was later stripped for doping.

"Unbelievable. Not in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would win up here," Thomas said. "It's one of those things that's going to stay with me for the rest of my life."

But Thomas acknowledged that Nibali's crash took some of the luster away from his victory.

Thomas rode over Nibali's rear wheel — when the Italian went down — but managed to stay upright.

Nibali, the 2014 champion got back up but finished seventh in the stage, then was taken to the local hospital for medical tests for a suspected back injury.

"He should have been fighting for victory," Thomas said of Nibali. "It's a bit of a downer on the day."

Nibali said: "The road became narrower and there were no barriers. There were two police motorbikes. When Froome accelerated, I followed him, I was feeling good. Then we slowed down and I hit the ground."

Nibali was diagnosed with a fractured vertebra and the Bahrain-Merida rider later tweeted that he was withdrawing from the Tour. Tom Dumoulin crossed second, two seconds behind Thomas, and Romain Bardet came third, three seconds back.

Froome, who finished fourth, four seconds behind, refused to talk to reporters afterward. A fan who allegedly hit him during the stage was put in handcuffs by French police.

"You expect professional athletes to play sport and



Britain's Geraint Thomas, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the twelfth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 175.5 kilometers (109 miles) with start in Bourg-Saint-Maurice Les Arcs and Alpe d'Huez, France, Thursday, July 19, 2018.

Associated Press

entertain without being touched or impacted on by the crowd," Sky general manager Dave Brailsford said. "Part of the joy of our sport is how close the crowd gets. But we have to bear in mind that if it impacts on the race, as it did with Nibali today, then that's too much."

Thomas extended his lead over Froome in the overall standings to 1 minute, 39 seconds. He'll likely hold on to the yellow jersey for at least several more days as the Tour returns to flatter roads for Stages 13 and 14 before the climbs resume in the Massif Central and the Pyrenees. □

Olympic figure skating medalist Denis Ten killed

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH

AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Olympic figure skating medalist Denis Ten was killed Thursday, and prosecutors in Kazakhstan said they were treating the case as murder.

Ten was stabbed after a dispute with people who allegedly tried to steal a mirror from his car in his home city of Almaty, Kazakh news agencies reported. Doctors in Almaty say the 25-year-old skater died in the hospital there.

Born in Kazakhstan to a family of Korean descent, Ten's bronze at the Winter Olympics in Sochi in 2014 made him Kazakhstan's first medalist in figure skating. Canadian skater Patrick Chan, who won silver in the same competition, said

on Twitter he was "honored and grateful to have shared the ice" with Ten. "One of the most beautiful skaters to have graced our sport. My thoughts are with his family during this unimaginable time."

The International Skating Union said it was "deeply saddened" by news of Ten's death.

"His shining achievements brought glory to our country and helped popularize sport among young people," Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev said. "Denis was not only an excellent athlete, whose talents were recognized and honored in many countries of the world, but also a remarkable personality and a true patriot of Kazakhstan." Ten also won the Four Con-



In this Feb. 16, 2018 file photo, figure skater Denis Ten, of Kazakhstan, reacts as his score is posted following his performance in the men's short program figure skating, in the Gangneung Ice Arena at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea.

Associated Press

tinents championships in 2015, and was a world championship silver medal-

ist in 2013.

Ten struggled with injuries in recent years and could

manage only 27th at the Pyeongchang Olympics in February.

Ten hadn't formally retired from skating, but in recent months he'd often spoken of his studies in economics and his plans to write a movie script.

"Independently of what happens in the future, I realize that I had a great career, where everything happened — highs and lows, medals and disappointments, nice memories and not so nice ones, unique events, meetings and many magical things," Ten said in September in an interview with the ISU website.

"Somewhere I realize that I was a really lucky person with a quite fulfilled sports life." □

EU ruling against Google opens 'opportunity,' rival says

By RYAN NAKASHIMA and RAF CASERT

BRUSSELS (AP) — European regulators' latest swipe at the dominance of U.S. tech giant Google could open new opportunities for rivals in search and web browsers — that is, if cellphone manufacturers decide to make the most of the opening.

The European Commission on Wednesday fined Google a record \$5 billion for forcing cellphone makers that use the company's Android operating system to install Google's search and browser apps. It also set a 90-day deadline for Google to rectify the problem or risk further fines.

A remedy could involve unbundling its core apps Search, Chrome and Play Store from eight other apps it packages with Android. The company could also decide to reverse its practice of barring Android manufacturers from selling devices using altered versions of Android, such as Amazon's Fire OS.

EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said concerns about restricting competition "wasn't just a remote possibility from theory books." She said Amazon tried to license its Android-based Fire OS in 2012, but Google's



EU Commissioner Margrethe Vestager holds a press conference on a Competition Case involving Google Android at the European Commission building, in Brussels on Wednesday, July 18, 2018.

Associated Press

contracts prevented it. "Manufacturers could not launch Fire OS on even a single device," she said. Google immediately said it will appeal the ruling, arguing that its free operating system has led to lower-price phones and created competition with its chief rival, Apple. Android has "created more choice for everyone, not less," Google CEO Sundar Pichai tweeted.

Mozilla Foundation, the nonprofit group that creates the lightweight ad-

blocking browser Firefox Focus, said the ruling gives it the opportunity to displace Chrome as the default browser or be pre-installed alongside it on some phones. It has been in talks with manufacturers from Huawei to Samsung about those possibilities. It's also possible not much will change. Google Search, Chrome and the Play Store are popular with consumers and developers. Cellphone manufacturers could still choose to include them despite un-

bundling. The fine, which caps a three-year investigation, is the biggest ever imposed on a company by the EU for anticompetitive behavior. It could stoke tensions between Europe and the U.S., which regulates the tech industry with a lighter hand. President Donald Trump tweeted Thursday that the fine proves his point that the EU is taking advantage of the U.S. He wrote, "I told you so! The European Union just slapped a Five Billion

Dollar fine on one of our great companies, Google. They truly have taken advantage of the U.S., but not for long!"

Still, some U.S. politicians welcomed the fine.

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut tweeted that the fine should "be a wake-up call" to the Federal Trade Commission and should lead U.S. enforcers to protect consumers. Blumenthal previously called on regulators to investigate how Google tracks users of Android phones.

In its ruling, the EU said Google broke the rules by requiring cellphone makers to take a bundle of Google apps if they wanted any at all.

The EU took issue with Google's payments to wireless carriers and phone makers to exclusively pre-install the Google Search app.

It also said Google broke the law by forcing manufacturers that took its apps to commit to not selling devices that use altered versions of Android.

The 4.34 billion euro penalty comes on top of a 2.42 billion euro fine (\$2.8 billion) that regulators imposed on Google a year ago for favoring its shopping listings in search results. □

High-altitude balloons to deliver internet access in Kenya



In this photo provided by Loon LLC, a balloon launches from Loon's launch site Winnemucca, Nev.

Associated Press

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP) — A Google-affiliated company has chosen Kenya as the home of its first announced commercial

deal for delivering internet access to hard-to-reach areas using high-altitude balloons.

Loon, which is linked to

Google through parent company Alphabet Inc., says it will work with Telkom Kenya to deliver 4G/LTE cellular access to Kenya in 2019.

The balloons will be tested in central Kenya, which has been difficult to service due to mountainous or inaccessible terrain. The high-altitude balloons have already been deployed in emergencies in Peru and Puerto Rico, where they helped regions devastated by floods and hurricanes. Billions of people on Earth still aren't connected to the internet.

They tend to live in the poorest places with the least infrastructure to support it.

Since Google first launched the project in 2013, its goal has been to connect everyone on the planet. While getting more people connected fits with Google's ambitions of making information "universally accessible and useful," it also increases the number of people who can use Google's ad-supported services.

The announcement comes just a week after Loon graduated from Alphabet's secretive "moonshot factory" known as X. That means it's considered a full-fledged company beside sibling companies including Google and self-driving car developer Waymo. "We're excited to take a big step forward for our

business and mission," Loon CEO Alastair Westgarth, said in a Medium post.

Westgarth says Alphabet marks a significant milestone in a journey that began in 2013 when a New Zealand sheep farmer became one of the first to connect with Loon test balloons.

Facebook has also been trying to deliver the internet via solar-powered drones. Last year, it completed a test flight above Arizona, after an earlier flight resulted in a crash. But just last month, Facebook announced it would stop making its own aircraft and would support other high-altitude connectivity initiatives. □

Farmers fret and wait as US-China trade war escalates

By STEVE KARNOWSKI

BLAKE NICHOLSON

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Many anxious American farmers are delaying purchases and investment while hoping for a truce in a U.S.-China trade war that has left their crops at a competitive disadvantage overseas.

The longer the Trump administration's tariffs remain in place, the more China's retaliatory tariffs against American exports stand to hurt U.S. soybean and pork producers.

President Donald Trump's administration on July 6 carried out its threat to impose 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion worth of Chinese products, alleging that Beijing steals or pressures U.S. companies to hand over technology. China responded with similar duties on the same amount of U.S. imports — including soybeans and pork. The administration July 10 announced a second possible round targeting \$200 billion worth of goods. Beijing vowed "firm and forceful measures" in response.

"From a farmer's perspective all you can do is wait and hope, which aren't very good options," said Michael Petefish, who grows soybeans and corn near Claremont in southern Minnesota. "If you can afford not to be selling your beans now, just put them in the bin and store them and wait for better markets. That's about all you can do."

Wanda Patsche and her husband, Chuck Patsche,



In this July 18, 2018 photo, soybean farmer Michael Petefish walks through his soybeans at his farm near Claremont in southern Minnesota.

Associated Press

stand to be doubly affected. They grow corn and soybeans and raise pigs near Welcome in southern Minnesota. She said the main thing they and their neighbors have done to cushion themselves is to delay investment in their farming operation.

"There will be no equipment purchases, no improvements, just holding our own. Basically a holding pattern. And hoping things are going to get worked out fairly quickly," she said.

Farmers often hedge against price downturns by selling part of their crop on the futures market, locking in an early price for crops they'll harvest in the fall. Patsche said she and her husband marketed a little of their 2018 crop, so they can count on a profit for

those bushels, but they'd take a loss if they sold any more at current prices. So they're hoping the markets get some good news that will send prices back up.

Greg Bartz, who farms near Sleepy Eye in southern Minnesota' Brown County, said he sold most of his 2018 corn and soybean crop earlier this year before trade fears sent prices plunging. He pointed out that that's a gamble that can backfire if prices ultimately go up.

"You never know, and you don't know what production is going to be, either," said Bartz, the county's Farm Bureau president.

One of the few things farmers can do for now is to make themselves heard. Petefish and other farmers from the American Soy-

bean Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation descended on Capitol Hill on July 11 to tell lawmakers and staffers how they stand to become collateral damage in the trade war unless there's a resolution soon.

"A lot of people aren't very optimistic, unfortunately," said Petefish, president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. "They're not sure of the end game, and that's what everyone is trying to ascertain: What is the plan?"

They also included Joe Ericson, whose family grows soybeans, corns and wheat near the eastern North Dakota town of Wimbleton. Ericson, president of the North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, said the tariffs put farmers like him who are Trump supporters in an awkward position.

"I fully support my president, but it's tough to defend it,"

he said. "We don't really defend tariffs; we defend fair trade. We wish there were other ways he could go about finding a solution."

Petefish has been telling people how the price plunge is already costing farmers like him. Soybeans have dropped more than \$2 a bushel on the Chicago Board of Trade in the last few weeks due to the trade tensions. That means the 2017 beans left in his bins are suddenly worth a lot less.

"On my farm it's the equivalent of \$250,000 ... in lost value," he said.

And that hit comes on top of already low commodity prices that have cut farm incomes by 50 percent since 2012, he said.

"If you're not already in the red, this will push you into the red for this year," he said.

The ultimate impacts may become clearer this fall. At that point many farmers may have to sell at least part of their new crops at the market price, as low as it may be, just to pay bills.

"We forward-contracted a lot of our stuff, but if it continues on, next year will be tighter," Ericson said. "If you did a good job marketing I think you'll be OK. A lot of people selling right off the combine — that's going to hurt them. When the combines start rolling, that's when you'll really start seeing it."

Trump trade adviser Peter Navarro last month said the administration would have farmers' backs, Petefish recalled.

"Right now farmers don't know what that means," he added.

Target is cranking up same-day delivery in New York

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Target will begin rolling out speedy service for thousands of products by the end of the month in New York, less than a year after spending \$550 million to acquire the same-day delivery company Shipt.

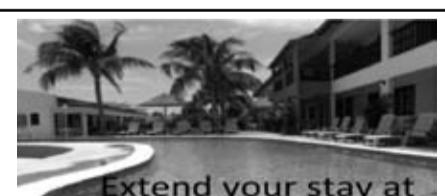
Rapid delivery has become the new front in re-

tail, with every major player attempting to beat, or at least match, Amazon.com in its reach.

Target already begun same-day deliveries using Shipt in other parts of the country, including Texas, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. Target Corp. said Thursday that the same-day delivery of items like groceries and

toys will start on July 31 in Hudson Valley and Kingston. It will launch in other areas, including Long Island, Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island, next month.

Consumers must sign up for Shipt, regularly priced at \$99 for an annual membership. Those that sign up before Aug. 14 will pay \$49. □



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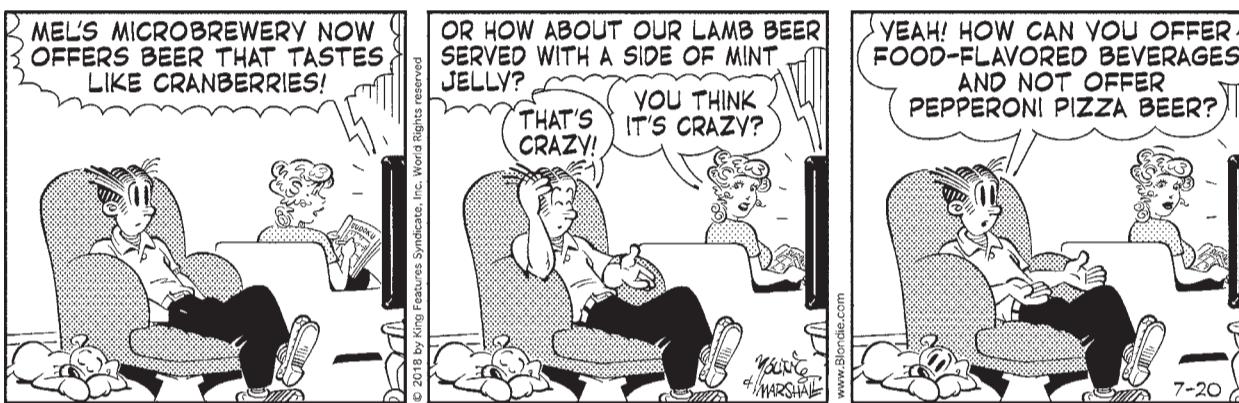
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



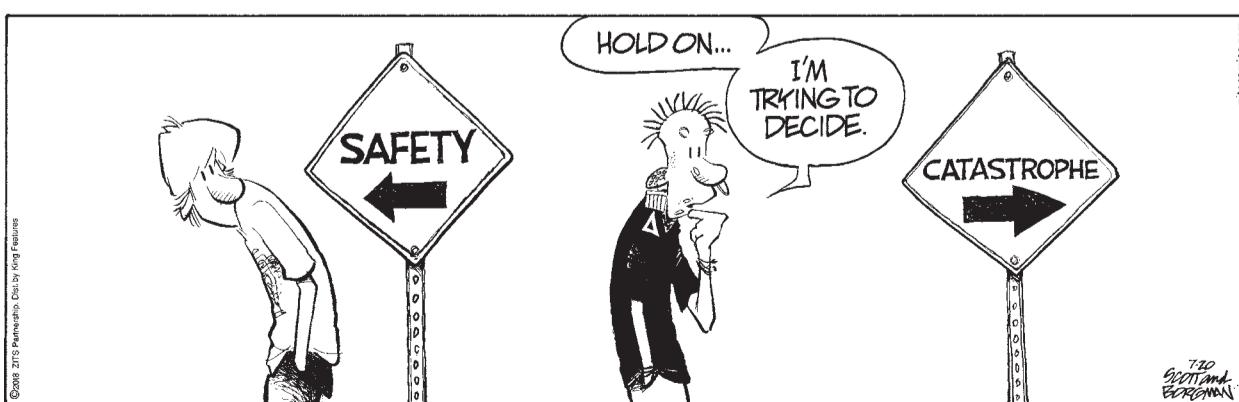
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6	8			1							
2			1								4
	9										
		5	6	8							
1					2						
9	5	4				1					
							3				2
5							6	7			
8											

Difficulty Level ★★★★

7/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

1	2	7	3	5	8	6	9	4			
6	5	8	7	4	9	1	3	2			
4	3	9	1	6	2	5	7	8			
5	8	6	4	3	1	9	2	7			
3	7	4	9	2	6	8	5	1			
2	9	1	8	7	5	3	4	6			
7	6	3	5	1	4	2	8	9			
9	4	2	6	8	3	7	1	5			
8	1	5	2	9	7	4	6	3			

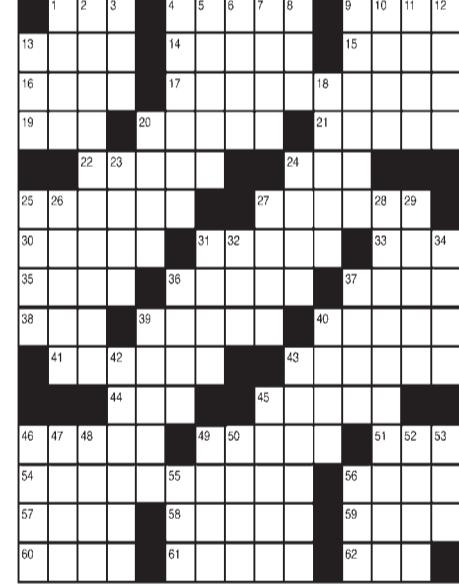
Yesterday's puzzle answer

ACROSS

1 "___ whiz!"
4 Man of the cloth
9 "First ___, first served"
13 Coffee
14 E.T., for one
15 Take ___;
subtract
16 "Somewhere, ___ the rainbow..."
17 Language heard in Ho Chi Minh City
19 Japan's dollar
20 Chicago team
21 Classroom furniture
22 Women's dress shoes
24 ___ excellence; first-rate
25 Sunglasses
27 Great respect
30 Hunger pains
31 In ___; destroyed
33 Lawn tree
35 Griffith or Williams
36 Clever in a tricky way
37 Reason to wed
38 Foot digit
39 Yrbk. section
40 Sire children
41 Loafers
43 Unrefined
44 Furniture wood
45 Hooded jacket
46 "Jack ___ could eat no fat..."
49 Thick string
51 Prefix for caution or paid
54 Central downtown thoroughfare
55 "___ Land Is Your Land"
57 ___ more; again
58 Part of a pound
59 Squirts with WD-40
60 Equipment
61 One of the 12 Apostles
62 Biggest club

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

7/20/18



Thursday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	T	E	R	W	O	D	Y	S	O	F	T
E	A	R	S	E	V	A	D	E	H	A	L	E
C	H	A	P	P	E	N	E	T	R	E	T	S
H	U	N	R	E	N	T	U	P	S	E	T	
	S	W	A	N	S	P	R	E	P	R	E	
A	C	C	E	P	T	C	O	A	S	T	S	
C	U	R	E	S	T	A	L	L	H	U	B	
T	R	I	P	S	P	I	R	O	B	E	A	
S	I	P	P	L	U	M	E	L	A	R	V	
E	T	C	H	E	R							
L	O	W										
A	S	P										
U	N	I										
N	I	V										
E	R	S										

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7/20/18



In this May 2, 2018 file photo, Blockbuster Alaska manager Kevin Daymude moves display case featuring jockstrap worn by Russell Crowe in 2005 movie "Cinderella Man" in Anchorage, Alaska.

Associated Press

Blockbuster not yet selling Russell Crowe's jockstrap

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Everything in the closing Blockbuster video stores in Alaska is for sale, except the celebrity jockstrap.

The Anchorage store is not yet selling the jockstrap worn by Russell Crowe in the 2005 movie "Cinderella Man" and other memorabilia previously owned by the actor, KTUU-TV reported.

The stores in Anchorage and Fairbanks, the last two stores in the state, closed for rentals this week and reopened for video liquidation sales planned to run through August.

The host of HBO's "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" sent the items earlier this year to display in the Anchorage store in an effort to ramp up business. Oliver had purchased the items at what Crowe had dubbed "the divorce auction." "We're not selling the jockstrap at this time," said Kevin Daymude, general manager of Blockbuster Alaska. "But if you want, you can own the display cases it was placed in. We're selling all of those along with the store fixtures."

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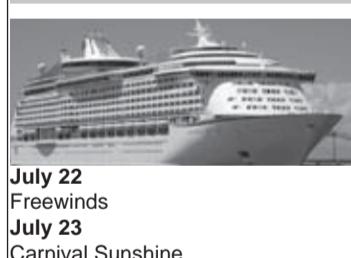
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July 23
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Centre for Diabetes	Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention	Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club	Tel. 525 2672
General Info	
Phone Directory Tel. 118	

Clues to Confederate mystery: Sub's crew never dumped weight

By JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

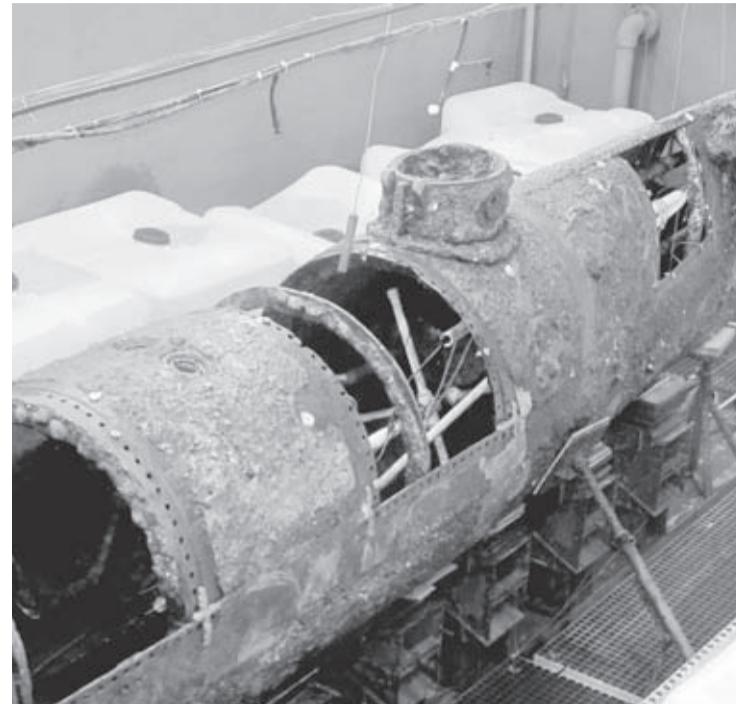
COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Scientists studying the world's first submarine to sink an enemy ship said Wednesday that the doomed Confederate crew did not release an emergency mechanism that could have helped the vessel surface quickly. The 1,000 pounds (454 kilograms) of what are called keel blocks would typically keep the H.L. Hunley upright, but also could be released with three levers, allowing the sub to surface quickly in an emergency, said archaeologist Michael Scafuri, who has worked on the submarine for 18 years. Scientists who removed the century of corrosion, silt and shells from the submarine found the levers all locked in their regular position, Scafuri said.

"It's more evidence there wasn't much of a panic on board," Scafuri said.

The Hunley and its eight crewmembers disappeared in February 1864 in Charleston Harbor shortly after signaling it had placed explosives on the hull of the Union ship the USS Housatonic.

Ever since the Hunley was raised from the ocean floor in 2000, scientists have worked to determine why the sub never returned to the surface. The keel blocks don't give a definitive answer, but do provide clues that either the crew didn't think it needed to surface quickly or never realized they were in danger.

The crew moved the submarine through the ocean with a hand crank, and one theory is they were resting on the ocean floor 4 miles (6 kilometers) from shore waiting for the tide to turn



In this May 1, 2014 file photo, the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley sits in a conservation tank at a lab in North Charleston, S.C.

Associated Press

to make their journey back to land easier and ran out of oxygen or got stuck. But there are other theories such as the Housatonic explosion knocking out the Hunley's crew or a ship that sped to help save some of the crew on the Union ship clipping the Confederate sub and crippling it as it tried to dive.

Those theories can't be ruled out — at least not yet and maybe never, said Scafuri, who planned to work on the Hunley mystery for a year or two as a graduate student in 2000 and is now entering his 18th year helping conserve and study the submarine which is stored in chilled, fresh water in a 75,000-gallon (283,900-liter) tank in North Charleston.

"I would love to get to that point absolutely," Scafuri said when asked if he thinks scientists will ever know exactly what happened inside the sub, which was

just 40 feet (12-meters) long and so small the men couldn't stand up straight as they turned the crank-shaft.

"Can I promise that? No," Scafuri said.

The next step for scientists is to remove more of the corrosion, slit and other material collected on the hull. Over 18 years, Scafuri said they have uncovered nearly a dozen artifacts, reconstructed the faces of the crew members and gained more knowledge about the science behind the submarine, which was built in Mobile, Alabama.

"We keep seeing parts that no one has seen in 150 years. All of them add into the mix of what happened and how this sub was operated," Scafuri said. "After all, we don't have the blueprints."

The keel blocks go on display at the Hunley's North Charleston museum Saturday. □



This illustration provided by NASA depicts debris surrounding the star RW Aur A, about 450 light-years away from the Earth.

Associated Press

Astronomers spy nearby star that could be chomping a planet

By SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Astronomers may have caught a relatively nearby star munching on a planet or mini-planets.

A NASA space telescope noticed that the star suddenly started looking a bit strange last year. The Chandra X-Ray Observatory spotted a 30-fold increase in iron on the edge of the star, which is only 10 million years old, along with pronounced dimming.

Astronomers have been watching the baby star — in the constellation Taurus — for decades and iron levels weren't high in 2015 the last time the Chandra telescope looked at it. The star, called RW Aur A, is 450 light-years away. A light-year is 5.9 trillion miles.

Hans Moritz Guenther, a scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said he's never seen anything quite like this before, calling it "a lot stranger than we thought we'd be seeing."

"We've never seen any

star that's changed its iron abundance like that," he said.

Guenther said one potential simple explanation is that the star is eating a planet or mini-planets. He looked at other possible explanations, and of the two that make sense, he prefers the planet-munching one. Computer simulations show it can happen, but it has never been seen before, he said.

Outside experts are wary. "This could be an exciting discovery, but the evidence is circumstantial and not definitive," said Harvard's Avi Loeb.

Guenther's preferred explanation is speculative, said Alan Boss of the Carnegie Institution of Science, an expert on planets outside our solar system.

The study is in Wednesday's *Astronomical Journal*. □

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Gary Beach, who won a Tony in 'The Producers,' dies at 70

By MARK KENNEDY

NEW YORK (AP) — Gary Beach, a Broadway and TV veteran whose portrayal of a truly terrible theater director in Mel Brooks' monster hit "The Producers" won him a Tony Award in 2001, has died, according to his agent, Steven Unger. He was 70.

Unger said Beach died Tuesday at his home in Palm Springs, California. No cause was given.

Beach's other Broadway roles included Lumiere in "Beauty and the Beast" and Albin in the 2004 revival of "La Cage aux Folles," both of which earned him Tony nominations.

"The Producers" opened in 2001 and starred Nathan Lane as Max and Matthew Broderick as Leo, and featured Cady Huffman as Ulla and Roger Bart as Carmen Ghia.

Beach played the self-absorbed and beyond-flamboyant director who gets to go on as Hitler and leads the cast in "Springtime For Hitler," the show's most famous number. He reprised the role in the 2005 film.

Born in Alexandria, Virginia, Beach at age 11 saw the original road tour of "The Music Man," starring Forrest Tucker, at Washington's National Theatre and was



In this Dec. 12, 2005 file photo, cast member Gary Beach arrives at the world premiere of the theatrical version of the musical "The Producers," in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

hooked on musical theater. "I always wanted to be a performer, but it never occurred to me to be a television performer or a movie actor," Beach told The Associated Press in 2001. "To me, it was always Broadway."

Beach started college at Old Dominion in Norfolk, Vir-

ginia, as a political science major but read a magazine article about the North Carolina School of the Arts, where "show business goes to school" — and found his true calling.

He did over 1,000 performances in New York and on the road of three musicals: "Annie," "Les Mis-

erables" and "Beauty and Beast," and over 800 performances in "1776," the show that got him to Broadway. He survived flops — "The Mooney Shapiro Songbook," a one-performance bomb in 1981 — and moments of intense gladness, like the comedy "Legends" by "Chorus Line" author

James Kirkwood starring two real-life theater legends, Mary Martin and Carol Channing.

"The first day of rehearsal in Los Angeles, there I was, sitting between Peter Pan and Dolly Levi and trying to pretend there was absolutely nothing wrong with this picture," he recalled with a laugh.

After nearly 20 years in New York, Beach moved to Los Angeles. "I fell in love with the idea of having a car like an adult," he said. There, he acted in such shows as "The John Larroquette Show," "Murder, She Wrote," "Saved by the Bell" and "Will & Grace."

He stayed in California for 13 years, only coming back to do "Beauty and the Beast." He broke his ankle during the run after falling off a stack of dishes, went back to Los Angeles and got a call asking him to do a reading of "The Producers." Beach's favorite moment in the show was a section of lyrics added to the "Springtime for Hitler" number during the pre-Broadway run in Chicago.

"It's when Hitler does the tap challenge with the Allies and ends up rolling the wheelchair-bound Franklin Roosevelt off the stage," Beach explained. □

Bruce Springsteen surprises audience at Billy Joel concert

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen propped himself on top of Billy Joel's piano to sing a duet with The Piano Man, who was celebrating his 100th concert at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday night.

Joel told the energetic crowd he had a guest coming onstage who has won a Grammy, Oscar and Tony. Springsteen emerged, surprising the feverish and fanatic audience, who loudly cheered "BRUCE."

"Congratulations Billy on your 100th show," Springsteen yelled.

"Ready, Billy?" he asked, as Joel began to play while sitting at the piano.



Musician Billy Joel performs during his 100th lifetime performance at Madison Square Garden on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, in New York.

Associated Press

Springsteen encouraged the crowd to cheer louder and then sang "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out." He jumped onto Joel's piano

— making it on his second try — and sat on it while Joel played and the piano slowly spun. Springsteen then rocked his guitar for

"Born to Run."

Joel, 69, and Springsteen, 68, hugged after their two-song performance, and The Boss kissed Joel on his head as he walked off-stage.

A banner celebrating Joel's 100th performance at MSG rose to the ceiling near the top of the two-hour-plus concert. Joel started performing a monthly residency at the arena in 2014. No artist has performed at the famed venue more than Joel. "Good evening to you New York City," said Joel, whose 2-year-old daughter, Della Rose Joel, sat on his lap. "I want to thank you all for coming to our show." Joel was excited throughout his set, going from pia-

no to harmonica to guitar. He put on his sunglasses while he passionately sang "New York State of Mind" and twirled his microphone stand in the air and danced happily after singing "Uptown Girl."

He said he had to think of a special song to sing to celebrate his new milestone, and then performed "This Is the Time."

"Maybe it'll hit me later," he said of his new feat.

Earlier on Wednesday, Governor Andrew Cuomo proclaimed July 18, 2018, as "Billy Joel Day." Joel, who was born in the Bronx, first performed at MSG on December 14, 1978. His piano is on display in front of the venue. □

'McQueen' examines career of a brilliant, troubled designer

By JOCELYN NOVECK

NEW YORK (AP) — The London fashion world didn't know quite what hit it when Alexander McQueen's disheveled models staggered down the runway at his 1995 "Highland Rape" show, their Scottish-inspired clothing ripped to expose breasts and nether regions. It was exactly the reaction that McQueen, then in his 20s and subsisting on McDonald's and unemployment checks, was seeking. "I don't want a show where you come out feeling like you've just had Sunday lunch," he said at the time. "I want you to come out either feeling repulsed or exhilarated."

McQueen would go on to provoke, repulse, inspire and exhilarate — often simultaneously — until he was 40, when he tragically took his life. How did a taxi driver's son from working-class London make the unlikely journey to the top of the fashion world, and what made him end it all at the height of his powers? For filmmakers Ian Bonhote and Peter Ettegui,



In this May 13, 2008 file photo, British fashion designer Alexander McQueen arrives for the Los Angeles Alexander McQueen Boutique launch party in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

the two questions proved irresistible; their resulting documentary, "McQueen," opens this week.

Fashion is a compelling topic for documentaries — indeed, few subjects are so enticingly visual. But the challenge is always to peel away the well-polished — and well-guarded — fa-

cade. "The fashion world is a bubble," says Ettegui, who wrote and co-directed the film. "They don't necessarily take kindly to outsiders coming in and revealing their secrets."

The filmmakers approached close to 200 sources, says Bonhote. Finding footage was painstaking work, but they were fortunate to secure key parts of McQueen's most dramatic runway shows, along with some strikingly candid interviews with the designer — a rarity at fashion shows.

They also found some valuable archival footage — including some private footage that McQueen and his associates captured for fun, trying out a new camera as they traveled to Paris for the designer's new, high-profile post at Givenchy in 1996, looking like grinning kids taking their parents' car for a spin.

The filmmakers were also able to convince some key McQueen family members to speak, namely his older sister, Janet, and her son, Gary, a designer himself who worked for his uncle. And they interview some of McQueen's former colleagues, though not all: Sarah Burton, for example, who succeeded McQueen at his namesake label, doesn't appear.

At the heart of the film,

though, is McQueen's work

— and the way his bracing talent reverberated through the fashion establishment. Watching now, one can almost feel the gasps in the audience as the designer places model Shalom Harlow on a revolving platform in a plain tulle dress in his 1999 show "No. 13," then has two robots spray yellow and black paint on her as she turns and turns. It was a mesmerizing effect that brought McQueen himself to tears. The film is divided into chapters, each focusing on a particularly influential McQueen show. The first, "Jack the Ripper Stalks His Victims" in 1992, was originally his final project at Central Saint Martin's, the well-known London fashion school.

Even getting to the school was unlikely. The young Lee McQueen (he reverted to his middle name, Alexander, later because it sounded posh) was supposed to become "a mechanic or something," but he was obsessed with drawing clothes. His mother encouraged him to knock on doors on Savile Row for an apprenticeship, and there, he became a superb craftsman.

Isabella Blow, a prominent fashion figure, bought up his entire "Jack the Ripper" collection and helped him

make his way. But it's clear that, as an associate says: "No one discovered Alexander McQueen. Alexander McQueen discovered himself."

At first, there was no money. A friend describes how the two went to McDonald's after a major show, dropped the food on the floor, but had to pick it up and eat it because they couldn't afford to buy more.

Things changed radically when luxury conglomerate LVMH hired McQueen for Givenchy. But McQueen didn't just sit back and enjoy his financial windfall — he poured it back into his own label. It was a time of enormous pressure; McQueen says in one interview that he produced an astounding 14 collections in a year.

For a man often called the "bad boy" or "enfant terrible" of fashion, there was much else to learn about McQueen, the filmmakers say. Among the things that surprised them: his sheer technical craftsmanship, and a constantly developing business savvy.

They were also struck by how McQueen's personality contrasted with the myth. "He had this reputation for being abrasive, punk," says Ettegui. "But what we see in the archive is McQueen with friends, with his parents, even his beloved dogs, being very human and very tender at times."

At the end of his life, two deaths devastated McQueen. Blow took her life in 2007 — we see him at her funeral, looking destroyed. And in early 2010, McQueen's beloved mother died. Only days later — on the eve of her funeral — the designer killed himself.

The filmmakers can only speculate why McQueen, who struggled with drug use, took his life. "Fashion does come with a very unique set of pressures," says Ettegui. But, he adds, "People we spoke to said, 'Don't try to make him a victim, because ultimately the person who put the most pressure on McQueen was McQueen.' □

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DENZEL WASHINGTON | PEDRO PASCAL
THE EQUALIZER (R)
MON THURS 3:55 | 5:15 | 6:35 | 7:50 | 9:15
FRI 3:55 | 5:15 | 6:35 | 7:50 | 9:15 | 10:25 | 11:00
SAT 2:40 | 3:55 | 5:15 | 6:35 | 7:50 | 9:15 | 10:25 | 11:00
SUN 2:40 | 3:55 | 5:15 | 6:35 | 7:50 | 9:15

AMANDA SEYFRIED | MERYL STREEP
MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (PG-13)
CXC PREMIUM LARGE FORMAT AUDITORIUM
2D MON-THURS 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10
FRI 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 | 11:40
SAT 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 1:40 | 4:10 | 6:40 | 9:10

DWAYNE JOHNSON | NEVE CAMPBELL
SKYSCRAPER (PG-13)
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-THURS 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20
FRIDAY 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SATURDAY 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20 | 11:35
SUN & HOL 2:35 | 4:50 | 7:05 | 9:20

ADAM SANDLER | SELENA GOMEZ
HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3 (PG)
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:30
SAT & SUN 2:20 | 4:30 | 6:40 | 8:30

CHRIS PRATT | JEFF GOLDBLUM
JURASSIC WORLD (PG-13)
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-SUN 4:10 | 6:30

PAUL RUDD | EVANGELINE LILLY
ANT-MAN AND THE WASP (PG-13)
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRIDAY 4:15 | 6:30 | 9:25
SAT & SUN 1:45 | 4:15 | 6:30 | 9:25

Sylvester Stallone | Dave Bautista
ESCAPE PLAN (R)
MON-THURS & SUN 9:30
FRI & SAT 9:30 | 11:40

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The Internet's return lacks bite, electricity

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

The Internet, "Hive Mind"
(Columbia Records)

The internet, as we know all too well by now, shrieks and howls and barks. The L.A.-based soul and R&B band of the same name practically whispers with its fourth studio album.

On the 13-track "Hive Mind," The Internet is as laid-back and subtle as the global computer network is ugly and brash. How laid-back exactly? Almost to the point that many songs feel unfinished — just a series of chunky grooves, drum loops and handclaps barely stitched together.

Musicians Matt Martians, Christopher Smith, Patrick Paige and Steve Lacy have given lead singer Sydney "Syd" Bennett mellow textures and a series of dreamy canvases to expand her range, but it's also clear that the album lacks the bite and snap of previous



This cover image released by Columbia Records shows "Hive Mind," a release by The Internet.

Associated Press

ous releases.

Standouts include "La Di Da," "Roll (Burbank Funk)" and "Come Over," songs

that show off the band members' ability to riff off each other's hooks. "Look What U Started" is built around a superchunky bass line, as good as anything on "Ego Death," The Internet's acclaimed and Grammy-nominated third studio album, which yielded "Under Control" and "Girl."

But "Beat Goes On" swirls endlessly on until halfway when, inexplicably, a different beat goes on, as if the band was divided about its direction. "Next Time/Humble Pie" does the same thing — it goes fine until it, too, switches gears in the middle and shoots off into another song, ending bloated and messy. (Come to think of it, "Come Over" also has a weird expletive-laced coda that doesn't belong there.) It leaves the listener confused and lost. "Stay the Night" is marred by the endless repetition of the song's title and "Bravo" has an annoying drum ef-

fect that overpowers a delicate bass-driven song with its pneumatic, unwelcome mechanical insistence. "Wanna Be" meanders and meanders, getting lost in itself. And "Mood" never comes together.

Most of the songs concern modern love — aching longing or smooth seduction from Bennett — although the band reaches for something larger on "It Gets Better (With Time)," a beautiful, uplifting song about fighting through pain that's fueled by Bennett's falsetto.

The album ends with the sensual and steamy "Hold On" — destined to end up on bedroom playlists — but the taut electricity the band exuded is largely gone in favor of aimless doodling. But we were warned about this: In the opening song, after all, Syd sings: "I can't be sure/Not anymore /Today or tomorrow/What we gon' do."q

Airman who inspired "Good Morning, Vietnam" film has died

Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — Adrian Cronauer, the man whose military radio antics inspired a character played by Robin Williams in the film "Good Morning, Vietnam," has died. He was 79.

Mary Muse, the wife of his stepson Michael Muse, confirmed Thursday that Cronauer died Wednesday after a long illness. He had lived in Troutville, Virginia. During his service as a U.S. Air Force sergeant in Vietnam in 1965 and 1966, Cronauer opened his Armed Forces Radio show with the phrase, "Gooooood morning, Vietnam!"

Williams made the refrain famous in the 1987 film, loosely based on Cronauer's time in Saigon.

The film was a departure from other Vietnam war movies that focused on bloody realism, such as the Academy Award-winning "Platoon." Instead, it was about irreverent youth in the 1960s fighting the mili-

tary establishment.

"We were the only game in town and you had to play by our rules," Cronauer told The Associated Press in 1987. "But I wanted to serve the listeners."

The military wanted conservative programming. American youths, however, were "not into drab, sterile announcements" with middle-of-the-road music, Cronauer said, and the battle over the airwaves was joined.

In the film, Williams quickly drops Perry Como and Lawrence Welk from his 6 a.m. playlist in favor of the Dave Clark Five.

Cronauer said he loved the movie, but he said much of the film was Hollywood make-believe. Robin Williams' portrayal as a fast-talking, nonconformist, yuk-it-up disc jockey sometimes gave people the wrong impression of the man who inspired the film.

"Yes, I did try to make it sound more like a state-side station," he told The



Adrian Cronauer, a disc jockey on the Dawn Buster radio show whose experiences in Vietnam War were chronicled in the movie "Good Morning, Vietnam," poses outside his home in Philadelphia, Pa.

Associated Press

AP in 1988. "Yes, I did have problems with news censorship. Yes, I was in a restaurant shortly before the Viet Cong hit it. And yes, I did start each program by yelling, 'Good Morning, Vietnam!'" The rest is what he delicately called "good script crafting." When the film was released, the presidential campaign of Democrat Jesse Jackson called asking if Cronauer would help out. The conversation died quickly after Cronauer asked the caller if she realized he was a Republican. In 1992, George H. W. Bush's re-election campaign taped a TV ad slamming Bill Clinton's draft record. In the ad, Cronauer accused Clinton of lying.

"In many ways, I'm a very conservative guy," he said. "A lifelong, card-carrying Republican can't be that much of an anti-establishment type."

Cronauer was from Pittsburgh, the son of a steelworker and a schoolteacher. □

How to Get Better Vacation Photos, No Selfie Stick Required

By GREGORY KARP,
Associated Press

If you find yourself vacationing in Budapest, Hungary, you could preserve travel memories by taking a few arm-length, low-quality cellphone selfies that will fail to capture the magic of your visit.

Or you could hire someone like Dana J. Ardell, a Budapest-based professional photographer who knows photo spots you'll never find in a guidebook and who can deliver stunning pictures — with your whole travel party in the shots.

Ardell is a photographer with Flytographer, one of a growing number of online services that help travelers find and hire a photographer to take pictures of them during a vacation.

"People who believe memories are the best souvenir" are among those who will find value in photo services, said Flytographer founder and CEO Nicole Smith.

Still, the cost could run a few hundred dollars, so be smart about whom you hire. Here's what to know about hiring a pro to take pictures on your next vacation or bucket-list trip.

WHY HIRE A VACATION PHOTOGRAPHER?

- **QUALITY.** Vacations usually involve a lot of planning, money and great moments. "The problem is, the photos don't always match that marvelous time they're having," Smith said.

Smartphone cameras are decent, but they don't provide the same caliber of pictures as a professional



In this June 29, 2012 file photo, a photographer composes a picture on the Camp Ellis jetty as the sun rises over the Atlantic Ocean in Saco, Maine.

Associated Press

camera and lens. Plus, phone cameras aren't usually operated by a skilled photographer who knows how to incorporate the best light and properly compose a shot and later edit the images.

If you plan to turn a vacation photo into a wall-worthy print, you'll want something better than a cell phone snapshot. "Nobody's going to blow up a blurry selfie with seven chins," Smith said.

- **EVERYONE IS IN THE PHOTO.** Travel photos often involve two undesirable choices: a selfie stick or

handing your camera to a stranger in hopes they take a decent shot of everybody.

It's the reason Ardell hired vacation photographers for trips to Amsterdam and Glasgow, Scotland. "I know, personally, even as a photographer, if my husband and I are on vacation, we end up getting solo shots of each other or arm's-length selfies that aren't very flattering," she said.

- **LOCAL KNOWLEDGE.** Photographers who live in your destination know where and when to shoot — when the light is most favorable and where you won't be jostling with other tourists during busy times at landmarks.

- **LOCAL CONTACT.** Part of the benefit of hiring a trip photographer has nothing to do with photos — it's interacting with a resident, gaining insight into how locals live. It's part of what Ardell offers in her sessions in Budapest. "We chat the whole time," she said. "I love giving recommendations on my favorite places to eat and things to do around the city."

HOW MUCH IT COSTS

Hiring a vacation photog-

most popular package is one hour, which includes 35 photos for \$350.

HOW TO BOOK A PRO

- **GO ONLINE.** You could do your own research to find someone in the place you're visiting. But online booking services could make hiring a photographer easier, especially if you're going abroad and don't speak the language. With many, you choose the city, then read biographies of local photographers, look at their portfolios and pick one. Examples of online services include Flytographer, Local Lens, Shoot My Travel and Localgrapher.

- **GATHER INFORMATION.** Research a photographer's style and note the professionalism of their website and social media channels. Seek information on timing of photo delivery and what format they will be in. Find out about refund policies and quality guarantees.

- **CHOOSE A PACKAGE.** An hourlong session offers enough time for photos at a couple of locations and gives vacationers time to warm up in front of the camera. But a half-hour shoot can work for those tight on time or budget, Smith said.

- **BOOK EARLY.** Earlier booking — several weeks out — means a wider selection of photographers, days and times. If you've taken fabulous journeys but your photos just don't match, hiring a vacation photographer might be the ticket to preserving memories. □



In this May 31, 2018, file photo, tourists walk the beach of Maya Bay, Phi Phi Leh island in Krabi province, Thailand.

Associated Press



In this Oct. 13, 2015 photo, a Russian models for a photographer as the sun sets over the Red Sea at Sharm el-Sheik, south Sinai, Egypt.

Associated Press